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Lebanon

Prime Minister 'Umar Karami departed for Syria 5 May amid rumors of his impending resignation, according to official sources cited by the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon. Meanwhile, General Antoine Lahd, head of the Israeli-controlled South Lebanese Army (SLA), denied an Amnesty International report alleging that prisoners in the SLA-run al-Khiyam prison were being tortured, according to the clandestine Voice of the South radio.

Israel

There are "subliminal signs of a newly developed chemistry" between chief Israeli and Palestinian delegates Rubenstein and 'Abd-al-Shafi—a development "offensive to Shamir," according to a commentary published in 'AL HAMISHMAR. In another development, Israel and Nigeria restored diplomatic relations during a recent visit to that country by Foreign Minister Levi, Jerusalem radio reported. Nigeria broke off relations with Tel Aviv after the 1973 Yom Kippur War, the radio recalled.

Algeria

A military court sentenced 12 Islamists to death in connection with the November 1991 attack on Guemar border post, Algiers radio reported. Tension increased in the Islamist sections of Algiers following the court action, and police were placed on alert, Paris radio added. Shots were heard in the capital and two "powerful" explosions occurred in the city's outskirts, according to Algiers radio.

Iraq

In an interview with Turkish television, Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz discussed Kurdish autonomy, Baghdad's relations with Turkey, and the United Nations' destruction of Iraqi weapons and its control over oil exports.

Afghanistan

Interim president Sebghatollah Mojaddedi Tuesday appointed 36 ministers to the provisional government, Kabul radio reported. Speaking at a press conference, Mojaddedi said he will serve as president for two years "if the country needs me, if there is no solution but me" until elections are held, according to AFP. Meanwhile, battles among mojahedin factions continued around Kabul, according to reports by Kabul radio and Western press agencies.

Sudan

A "responsible security source" dismissed "foreign" reports alleging that Sudan had sheltered Libyan aircraft as "ill-intentioned," SUNA stated.

Libya

Approximately 2,000 CIS military experts including their families will leave the country on UN-sanctioned charter flights over the "next few weeks," according to a Russian Embassy spokesman cited by AFP.

Egypt

Thirteen people died and nearly 50 were arrested in Muslim-Christian clashes in Asyut Governorate, MENA reported. A statement by the Interior Ministry broadcast over Cairo radio blamed "extremist elements" for agitating the unrest and urged the public to maintain their "national unity."

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab Parliamentary Union Meets on Lockerbie Issue

LD0405233192 Tripoli JANA in English 1447 GMT 4 May 92

[Report on the Arab Parliamentary Union's 22d emergency session in Tripoli on 2-3 May; all quotation marks as received]

[Text] Tripoli, al-Ma' [May] 4, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The president of the Syrian People's Council 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah, who is also president of the Arab Parliamentary Union gave a speech at the opening session in which he expressed his appreciation for the leader of the revolution and the Arab people for the efforts exerted towards achieving Arab unity as well as for the sincere efforts of the Great Jamahiriyah for the dignity and honour of the Arab nation.

He went on to say "we are meeting once again in the land of the Great Jamahiriyah, this warm and friendly Arab land...the land of the revolution, of beneficence and steadfastness so that we will follow up developments resulting from the threats directed against the Great Jamahiriyah within the framework of the 22nd emergency session of the Union's council, to continue the discussions initiated at our meeting of last Ay al-Nar [January].

To bring all up to date, (?the) main focus of this meeting which took place in Ay al-Nar was our rejection of the use of threats as a means of dealing in the realm of internation relations. From these accusations which claim that Libya is responsible for the downing of an American and a French airplane, we felt that this was an attempt to abort the principled policy adopted by the September al-Fatah, [words indistinct] the Great Jamahiriyah's rights and sovereignty as well as seeing it as an outright intervention in the internal affairs of the Great Jamahiriyah, as an attempt to influence its' political and social choices. Indeed, we were fully aware from the very beginning of the strong link between the aforementioned threats and the attempts being made to seize control of the Arab nation and to subjugate the peoples of the Thirld World through the use of underhand methods such as using the terms "international legitimacy" and "international law".

At this meting in Ay al-Nar, the Union's council then passed a resolution and issued a closing statement which contained a number of measures which were entrusted to be carried out by the Union's executive and general secretariat which the two promptly acted upon.

Consequently, all resolutions and decisions adopted by the Arab Parliamentary Union's session in Ay al-Nar were delivered to all regional and international parliamentary bodies as well as to the president of the UN Security Council, the secretary general of the United Nations and the president of the General Assembly of the United Nations. Furthermore, in line with a another resolution adopted, Arab parliamentary delegations were sent to establish contact with the parliaments of the member countries of the Security Council. Thus, delegations were sent to the five continents of the world, to Asia, to Africa and to Europe. Consequently, these delegations became an instrument of widespread pressure never before witnessed in the history of the Union's activities, and as a result showed the entire world the oneness of Arab unity with respect to the danger facing a sisterly Arab country.

This meeting thus becomes a follow up to carry out the decisions of our previous meeting which took place at the beginning of the year. At the same time it is an opportunity to appraise what we have already accomplished on the one hand and on the other hand to appraise what we have yet to do as required by our agreements.

Consequently, since our meeting of last Ay al-Nar and until the passing of that baseless Security Council Resolution 748, threats made against sisterly Libya continue (?unabated). On the other hand, there was the Great Jamahiriyah which was (?continued) to pursue a balanced and conciliatory stance and putting forward initiatives which would have hopefully contain the crisis, to seek a peaceful solution and by adhering to the United Nations Charter and the dictates of international law.

We point to those who have appointed themselves as interlocutors on behalf of others, those who are drawing up the new world order, according to their whims and who have rejected the force of reason and continued to wield pressure with the eventual passing of Security Council Resolution 748, which you are all aware of which called for an air embargo on the sisterly Jamahiriyah as one in a series of obvious arm twisting maneuvers and threats and then blatantly intending to step up the measures directed against this sisterly country as long as this country does not give in and submit to all which is being demanded of it. This means that the situation is in continual danger of escalating.

Indeed, the situation we are facing is extremely dangerous and consequently our position should be based firstly on a full awareness of the reality of the conditions which reverberate around us and secondly on the reality of our capabilities—we are living in a world which has no time for the weak and disunited. A world which depends on the use of force as the only means to achieve one's goals. Thus, in such a world, we cannot, as Arabs, guarantee our existence nor to preserve the interests of our people and to carry out our aspirations. That is unless we find the weapon to face this era, this weapon is our solidarity, the unity of our ranks, and the use of all that which we possess, and this is plenty with which to deal with the challenges we face.

Our meeting has been called for because it expresses the firmness of our solidarity our sisterly Libyan nation. More important than that is that it has been called for to set down a programme of action, a programme which

would clearly spell out the dangers which face our nation and to prepare our masses throughout our great Arab nation to face these dangers. A programme under the motto "Hands Off the Jamahiriyah" which the entire world would hear of, a programme which would galvanise all available capabilities and resources to help in shielding the Arab world from impending dangers and with the will of God we shall manage this.

The secretary of the General People's Congress also gave a speech at the opening session in which he saluted the heads and members of the Arab parliamentary delegations who reached the different continents of the world for their brothers and sisters in the Great Jamahiriyah. He said "we reiterate our thanks to you and to your parliaments for atending here in the great Jamahiriyah and for enduring the rigours of travel and challenging the embargo imposed by the NATO countries and those in its' ranks.

The secretary then said "your attendance asserts your support and adherence to your brothers and sisters and your adopting of the necessary measures to respond to these ongoing conspiracies. The conspiracies which are not only directed against Libya but also against the entire Arab nation, country by country, it is also aimed at the Islamic nation and to strip the Arabs and the Muslims of their weapons to consolidate the Zionist enemy's hold on the Arab world, its' wealth and its' resources.

The secretary also spoke about the efforts exerted by the Great Jamahiriyah to solve this problem in a peaceful manner a manner which stems from its' rational policy and its' determination to bring the truth to light in line with international law and conventions. He said that the three (?Western) countries for their part were not dealing with the Great Jamahiriyah in a manner which implies seeking a peaceful solution to the conflict according to international laws and conventions.

He said that by using the Security Council to have unjust American resolutions passed, resolutions which are contrary to international law and conventions and particularly the UN Charter and which undermine the sovereignty of nations, means that this is the beginning of the end of the United Nations.

He pointed out that the United Nations had passed more than 40 resolutions against the Zionist state of which not even one was adhered to, while on the other hand all resolutions passed against the Arab countries are forced onto the Arabs immediately, some, even with the use of force. He said that by applying these double standards, the United Nations has lost its' credibility because it has become an instrument under whose cover American policies are followed, as well as those of its' allies and the Zionists.

The secretary then called on the Arab nation to not comply with any resolution which might be passed in future by the Security Council until the resolutions passed aginst the Zionists are complied with.

He said "it is up to us to (?pave) to the West the opposite of what they envision and to counter this blatant violation of international law and the United Nations Charter and to counter this dangerous (?attempt at hegemony) over the Security Council. This is so that the Security Council would not be transformed into a council which dictates to the peoples of the Third World. He also proposed practical measures be adopted to show all that the Arab nation is one and the impossibility of separating any part of it.

Al-Qadhdhafi Praises Syrian Stand

JN0405080192 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 4 May 92

[Text] Tripoli—Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has hailed the Syrian pan-Arab and distinguished position under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad on the Libyan-Western crisis and on other issues and interests that are facing danger.

At a meeting in Tripoli yesterday with 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah, the Syrian People's Assembly speaker and chairman of the Arab Parliamentary Union [APU], and the delegations taking part in the meetings of the APU's emergency session, al-Qadhdhafi spoke about President Hafiz al-Asad's historic speech delivered at the People's Assembly.

He emphasized that this speech has reflected the steadfast Syrian position toward the challenges it is facing. Col. al-Qadhdhafi added that the Libyan people listened with full appreciation to this important speech, which was broadcast in full by Libyan television because of its pan-Arab contents and principled positions, and due to its importance in revolutionizing the Arab masses and its emphasis that the Arabs will not succumb and will not relinquish their rights.

Col. al-Qadhdhafi warned against the dangers looming for the Arab nation and called for realizing effective Arab solidarity to safeguard the Arabs' higher interest. He referred to the importance of the Arab parliament's participation in creating Arab and international circumstances to break the siege on Libya and to refute the unjust accusations and false allegations which harm the interest of the people and the nation.

For his part, Qaddurah spoke about Syria's pan-Arab position, under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad, on all current Arab issues. Qaddurah referred to the statement issued by the APU emergency session and the united position it implied, which rejects the threats being made against Libya and which asks the international community to treat countries and peoples equally in implementing international resolutions, to refrain from the use of force, and to resort to peaceful, diplomatic methods for settling international conflicts.

Qaddurah listed the activities in world countries by the Arab parliamentary delegations which are taking part in

these meetings to assert the Arab parliaments' rejection of threats and measures directed against Libya.

Egypt Seeks To Settle Kuwait-Iraq Border Dispute

PM2904140292 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 24 Apr 92 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Cairo Favors Preinvasion Kuwaiti-Iraqi Border"]

[Text] Cairo—AL-HAYAH has learned that Cairo has held extensive contacts with the Security Council's five permament member states and the Gulf Cooperation Council states in connection with the recommendations of the international committee assigned to demarcate the Iraqi-Kuwaiti borders which altered the border in Kuwait's favor.

Cairo urged that Arab League charters and treaties and bilateral agreements between Kuwait and Iraq be referred to in this connection. It also urged that the matter be dealt with "seriously and responsibly in order to avoid any problems in the future."

It emphasized that its position takes account of the difficult experience of the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait. It said that to make any border alterations under these circumstances without agreement between the two states "would create a potential problem" and that the Arab world would suffer as a result. It emphasized "the need not to tackle aggression by stirring up new problems."

It stated that the committee's task should fall within the framework of observing the political borders between Iraq and Kuwait in accordance with Arab charters and treaties.

It emphasized the border which the Iraqi forces crossed at dawn on 2 August 1990. It said that the committee's recommendations "concern finding new conditions, not observing existing conditions"—the goal sought by the international coalition by deterring the Iraqi aggression and liberating Kuwait.

Cairo emphasized the need for Arab consultations in this connection, reaffirming its eagerness to "achieve security and stability in the Gulf and to take steps to prevent an Arab state from committing an act of aggression against another Arab state."

Cairo Denies Holding Contacts

PM2904143492 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 25 Apr 92 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Cairo Denies Report of Border Demarcation Moves"]

[Text] Cairo, SAWT AL-KUWAYT—In a statement to SAWT AL-KUWAYT yesterday, Friday [24 April], Ambassador Naji al-Ghatrifi, official spokesman of the [Egyptian] Foreign Ministry, denied AL-HAYAH's front page report yesterday that Cairo has held extensive contacts with the Security Council's five permanent member states and the Gulf Cooperation Council states on the resolutions of the international committee for demarcating borders between Kuwait and Iraq, that Cairo supports the preinvasion Kuwaiti-Iraqi border, and that it warned that altering the border between the two countries in accordance with the international committee's opinion "would create a potential problem and that the Arab world would suffer as a result." Ambassador al-Ghatrifi, who expressed his astonishment at what the newspaper said about Cairo, told SAWT AL-KUWAYT: "I do not know where the newspaper obtained that information because this is the first that I have heard of it."

AMU Discusses Creating Radio, TV Station

LD0305014792 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 1 May 92

[Text] The creation of a Maghreban radio and television station, the financial cost of this, and its charter were discussed in Algeria. Mourad Aboud has more:

[Aboud] The work group charged with creating a radio and television station for the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] discussed the station's financial cost and charter. The participants came up with recommendations, the most important of which are strengthening the exchange of programs in the short term, then giving the opportunity for television production which guarantees contact between the countries of the Arab Maghreb.

Its legal framework is: The station will perform a public service and will not seek to achieve any commercial purpose. The station aims at crystallizing the elements of the Islamic, Arab character in the Union, strengthening the strong ties, and then highlighting the economic, social, and cultural capabilities in which the AMU countries abound. The station will be composed of an administrative board, the members of which are to be appointed for a period of four years, and which will meet twice a year.

Algeria

Court Sentences 12 Fundamentalists to Death

LD0405165592 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 4 May 92

[Text] The Ouargla military court today sentenced to death 12 defendants in the latest Guemar incidents, including Mayor Omar Lazaar and Aissa Messaoudi, alias Taieb el-Afghani.

A total of 16 people were released because the accusations against them were not proved.

Tension Increases; Violence in Algiers

LD0405222992 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 4 May 92

[Text] A security source has reported that a hideout used by a group of people sought by the security forces has been discovered in a building in Salah Bouakouir [District], in the capital of Algiers. The same sources added that this group is comprised of about 10 people who were being actively sought by the security forces, who tonight are surrounding the building where these people are hiding.

According to local residents, shots were heard near the National Library this evening, but it is not yet known whether the security forces have managed to arrest the aforementioned group. Moreover, shots were heard at about 1900 this evening, and the sound of two powerful explosions was also heard in the outskirts of the capital, but the damage caused by these two explosions is not yet known.

[Paris France-Inter Radio Network in French at 2200 GMT on 5 May in a report on the situation notes: "Tension is mounting in Algeria: The Ouargla military court, which was trying 62 Islamists for the attack on the Guemar border post in November, has handed down 13 death sentences. As soon as the verdict was announced tension grew in the Islamist districts of Algiers, where the police forces were placed on a state of alert. Posters calling for a jihad, a holy war against the ungodly dictatorship, appeared on the walls of several mosques, notably in the Belcourt District, which is the stronghold of the Islamists."]

State Property in Constantine Damaged by Arson

LD0505073192 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 5 May 92

[Excerpt] A group of people in Constantine set fire to state properties and attempted to burn others last night and early this morning. Our correspondent in Constantine Abdelouahab Zid reports on the acts of sabotage and the material damage.

[Zid] Last night and the early hours of this morning in Constantine were not normal. There were many fires and attempts to set fires with gasoline and diesel oil in Souk el-Fallah, in the (Gammas) neighborhood, at the Algerian gaileries in the town center, at workshops, and against a national railways train in Sidi Mabrouk, a public telephone in the Safsaf neighborhood, a power generator in the Bardo quarter, and two National Tobacco Enterprise trucks, one of which was totally burned while the other had its rear portion and its back wheels damaged.

An savings fund office was saved just in time. A quantity of diesel oil was also spilled on the public road linking the travel station and the town center through the Bardo neighborhood.

Civilian protective personnel intervened rapidly and managed to put out the fires. The material damage has not yet been assessed. More details on these acts of sabotage will be given in an upcoming report. [passage omitted]

Arson Attacks Noted on Campuses

LD0405142692 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 4 May 92

[Excerpts] Our correspondents in Constantine and in Setif report that a fire broke out in the arts institute of Constantine University and another at the University of Setif. Civil defense forces intervened quickly and put out the fires. Daath Rabi reports on the fire at the arts institute in Constantine:

[Rabi] A group of masked men started fires in three institutes: the arts institute, the economic sciences institute, and the biology institute. Fires were also started in the offices of the registration and enrollment department of the central building, where some student files are kept. Gasoline was used to set the place on fire after the door of the administrative building was knocked down and two guards assaulted. Civil defense forces quickly intervened and within a short time they were able to extinguish the fires. [passage omitted]

We would like to point out that the losses due to this sabotage were not considerable except in the case of the biology institute, which was more heavily damaged than the others. [passage omitted]

Faisal Ghames reports from Setif:

[Ghames] The incident occurred at about 0230 today when an unknown group consisting of between 40 and 45 persons stormed the university administration building and tried to set it on fire. University officials report that the group wore masks, and that after tying up the guards they poured fuel on the front of the administration building. Earlier they had entered the building and smashed office windows. They all escaped.

Fortunately the fire did not engulf the whole building but rather was restricted to the entrance. The guards quickly extinguished the fire before the arrival of civil defense units. The losses have not yet been determined, and security authorities have started an investigation.

The incident has not affected classes, and students today entered auditoriums and classrooms as usual.

Egypt

Thirteen Killed in Asyut Religious Clashes

NC0405194592 Cairo MENA in English 1900 GMT 4 May 92

[Text] Cairo, May 4 (MENA)—Interior Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa is following up on a step-by-step basis the security situation developments in Manshiyat Nasir village of Dayrut District of Asyut Governorate, Upper Egypt, which was the scene midday of acts of violence that (?claimed) the lives of thirteen Muslims and Christians together with a casualty toll of five others.

Musa gave directives to Major General Hilmi al-Jajiqi, Public Security Department director, to proceed immediately to the scene to follow up the [word indistinct] conditions and ensure the security forces' control in order that the security conditions in the village and the areas around it may not deteriorate.

According to Nabil 'Ibadah, Asyut security director, the security conditions in Manshiyat Nasir village are stable and normalcy has been restored. He said the situation is in hand to prevent friction among citizens.

The security forces had arrested nearly 50 persons and seized quantities of unlicensed fire arms and side-arms.

The prosecution has undertaken the investigations and the coroner has been called for an autopsy.

Interior Ministry Urges Calm

NC0405142992 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1411 GMT 4 May 92

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen, we have just received the following statement from the Interior Ministry:

Today a dispute was renewed between two parties from the village of Manshiyat Nasir, in Dayrut District, Asyut Governorate, over the purchase of a house. The dispute developed into a fight in which weapons were used. Thirteen people were killed and five Muslims and Christians from the village were injured, including a teacher, a doctor, and the remainder of them farmers.

The public prosecutor's office has begun its investigation. The Asyut Public Prosecutor's Office previously investigated this dispute.

Four people from both sides are still being detained pending investigations.

Preliminary evidence indicates that extremist elements agitated the dispute between the two sides and took part in these incidents.

The Interior Ministry appeals to the area's citizens to maintain their national unity and to confront any attempt to exploit these incidents or to commit acts that violate security and order.

Full Version of Mubarak Labor Day Speech

NC3004221392 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0951 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Labor Day speech by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak at the Railway Club in Cairo on 30 April—live]

[Text] [Applause and chanting] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Dear brother citizens: There is no day better than the day we meet to praise the value of work. We strengthen our determination, gather our energies, and renew our joint commitment to serious and honest action so that Egypt will be able to meet the demands of its sons. Through work, we please God, because work is a religious duty dictated by the divine messages so that land and life can prosper. Through work, we realize our national duties because the homeland develops first and foremost through the efforts of its sons who, through the sweat of their brows and their minds, make for it a better future. Work raises the standard of living and advances collective national effort. Work is the greatest of all values if initiated by loyalty. It is the most honorable of duties if motivated by justice and progress. Through work, civilization progresses, the status of the homeland is elevated, and the life of the people develops.

Our meeting today is a meeting of hope for the sake of a better future. This better future cannot be realized without the sweat and efforts of Egypt's workers, the creators of civilization, the descendants of that ancient people who erected the pyramids, dug the canal, built the dam, realized the great crossing, and performed numerous miracles. [applause and chanting]

Dear brothers and sisters, during the past few years we have realized the firm and sound basis for a great revival which is leading Egypt to a new launching stage; a revival that exploits all the potentials of society to take part in the responsibility of building; a revival that calls on all intellectuals and inventors to seriously participate in the development process; a revival that condemns interdependence and indifference and rejects the rest of the negative aspects that hamper the participation of individuals in national action. It is a revival that uses a correct scientific approach and places before it the duty of protecting social security, which is based on the principle of a balance between rights and duties.

This is our understanding of the revival, which requires a constant alertness that awakens conscience and resolve. It also requires new values that urge perfectionism and good performance. It assumes an alert knowledge of the responsibilities of each Egyptian individual concerning the success of the development process.

This revival will not be brought about by depending on the state apparatus alone but rather through the collective initiatives of individuals and sectors of society and through their enthusiasm for involvement in and serious contributions to raising the standards of this homeland. Revival cannot be brought about without making exhaustive changes in societal relations which give every citizen their responsibility so that all can clearly realize that progress in society is the collective responsibility of its individuals and that individual progress can only be made within the framework of collective national progress.

The road to the future is clear before our eyes, without any ambiguity. We are certain about our objectives and know how to realize them. We are aware of the obstacles that might obstruct our march along the road. There is a serious action march ahead of us. Everyone should take part in this march so that we can build a strong homeland which is capable of fulfilling the needs of its sons—a homeland in which there is no place for bystanders, hesitant people, and advocates of skepticism. Our goal is clear: to invest all the resources available to the homeland in a comprehensive reconstruction process that would double our capabilities, benefit all, strengthen and promote the homeland, and generalize progress for all its individuals.

There is a new stage ahead of us. It requires a new spirit which seeks excellence and optimum performance, renounces selfishness, roots out the tendency to pursue personal interests, enhances purity and honesty, and gives further significance to work and experience.

This is every citizen's responsibility to himself, because the soundness of the community only comes through the soundness of its individuals. Let each of us start with himself before others. This homeland belongs to all and we all are responsible for it. [applause]

It is our task to change relations within the society in a manner that would enhance its solidarity and cohesion to realize the goals of revival. A strong and capable homeland can only be built by collective national effort and the balanced interests of the different groups within the framework of enhanced national conciliation and common popular interests. The homeland can never achieve revival through infighting among its social groups and powers or when a specific group thinks that it is solely responsible for realizing the objectives of revival. The homeland can only achieve revival through consolidating all powers in a just framework which serves the interests of all. The homeland cannot achieve revival unless the loyal Egyptian workers undertake a basic and leading role in the various production and services sectors, not only by increasing productivity and output but also by absorbing the modern technology which suits our economic and social conditions and which can enable Egyptian products to compete with foreign commodities in world markets, and by putting the name of our pure country on the list of the most advanced industrialized states. This is a national duty which the Egyptian workers, who are vanguards, are most worthy of undertaking. They are vanguards who constitute our strike force at the age of development and peace [applause] and our hope for a bright and happy future which spreads its blessings all over this secure valley.

It is our duty to reaffirm that there will be no infringement on the rights of the loyal and honest worker who is dedicated to his duty toward his work and homeland. There will be no infringement on the interests of these great masses who spread glory and construction all over Egyptian soil. [applause] There will be no imbalance between the workers' rights and the entrepreneurs' interests on the one hand, and the needs of the capable and rational administration on the other.

All of these rights and interests are legitimate. They flow in the mainstream of our national action which is a sweeping, unrelenting, and chronic current which will continue to flow forever.

We must utilize available capabilities the best way we can to reach a balance between prices and wages. Balancing prices and wages in a society whose population is increasing at such an astonishing rate cannot be achieved without production being introduced as a third factor in the equation. If this is not the case, economic imbalance, inflation, and higher prices will result.

Brothers and sisters, I do not believe that I have to tell you that I am aware of the difficulties every Egyptian suffers daily due to high prices, unemployment, and the problems of education and other services. I am aware that many citizens are earnestly trying to balance their income and commitments. I am also aware that many are concerned that their children will not be able to find suitable employment opportunities. I am aware of all these hardships and am trying to do everything I can to alleviate their impact on the honest and toiling citizens. [applause]

I know, as you all do, that our present sufferings are due to a chronic defect which rendered the Egyptian economy unable to fulfill the demands of society for a number of years. Over a long period the state imposed price controls on all commodities—as you well remember—starting with a loaf of bread and including luxury items, which are not a necessity for the majority of our people. The prices of raw material rose, the cost of labor rose, the price of production equipment rose, while the prices of commodities remained unchanged. Eventually, the result was that the economy's ability to rejuvenate itself was diminished. The number of workers in the agricultural sector diminished, land became barren, and agricultural production decreased because compulsory exports and prices did not compensate farmers and were not commensurate with the increasing cost of production. You remember all that. The private sector became too cautious and did not participate in any production activity because they feared they would lose too much.

Only the public sector was involved, and the treasury bore this sector's continuous losses, which resulted in more debts. This situation had to change because the volume of debt and servicing became too much for Egypt because the Egyptian economy, which continued to rely on a private sector the equipment and machines of which were too old, ran dry. In addition, the doors stayed closed on participation and investment. This is what happened.

These are some of the reasons that economic reform was needed. We needed to amend prices gradually within the framework of a comprehensive plan to free Egypt's economy and infuse new blood in its veins so that its productive capability would be able to meet society's demands. There was in fact no alternative to a phased plan to bring about comprehensive reform to revitalize and balance the economy, curb inflation, reduce reliance on loans, urge all members of society to participate, return consideration to market laws, encourage individual initiative, and end administrative control of the public sector.

Our goal is to ensure an appropriate atmosphere to promote and strengthen production and encourage every person to produce to increase the opportunities for skilled workers to increase production which will, in turn, curb price increases. I am well aware of the size of the problem from which society might suffer in the current circumstances. We are making our utmost effort to ease some of the burdens, particularly those involving the low-income groups, through a tangible annual salary increase, which has continued over the past five years. We are doing this because we feel particularly responsible for the vast majority of our working people and because we need their enthusiasm for the economic reform march.

Salaries and wages will again be increased by 20 percent this year. [applause] This is high and, as you are well aware, is a heavy burden to the treasury. This means that we have to shoulder an essential responsibility during the upcoming stage. We have to address the remaining shortcomings so that the production rate will increase and enable us to bridge the gap between prices and wages through real resources based on increased production, not by merely printing more money. This is the real challenge facing all those in charge of production. I think that we have paved the way for workers in both the public and private sectors to achieve this goal.

We have spent several billions [currency not specified] to replace and renovate the public sector's old machines. I am sure you are aware of this. We have eliminated bureaucratic restrictions and administrative complications in the public sector. We tasked experienced boards of directors and general assemblies to run the public sector. We gave management the freedom to make its own decisions in all aspects relating to their companies so that their decisions would safeguard workers rights and be in accord with market laws and the interests of the companies. We opened the doors for people to buy shares in public sector companies. We worked out a fair and strict reward and punishment law so that the companies can only be run by competent and successful directors who attain their goals. Because the public sector workers are partners in its promotion and have a basic interest in its progress, it was essential that trade union committees share management responsibilities by drafting bylaws linking wages to productivity and distinguishing hard workers from lazy ones. [applause] They also share in drawing up the training programs that enhance workers skills and help them to learn modern production methods.

I asked the Council of Ministers to formulate principles to give public sector companies freedom of movement and administration. I demanded that the formation of boards of administration and general assemblies be stopped before the end of May. These companies will then have the opportunity to proceed in accordance with their new principles and in total independence from government administration.

In the private sector, all restrictions on investment have been lifted. Obstacles that used to prevent its progress have been removed. The private sector now has the freedom to invest in any activity it wants, without any limits or ceilings. Sensible means for protecting national production have been prepared which do not include monopolies, which encourage people to abandon competition and squander quality.

Our objective in doing all this is to make the private sector a real partner in the development process. In fact, we want it to perform a pioneering role in various fields where it is more capable of developing and progressing. It is also important that we not forget a basic undeniable and indisputable fact: that economic reform requires time to yield its fruit, make its effects felt on individuals and groups, and reflect positively on the standard of living. We have to be patient and avoid impatience. We have to look to the future with confidence as long as we are marching along the correct course, as long as there are clear indications the basic reform line is sound, and as long as the economy is responding. These reform steps might seem harsh and exhausting initially, but they will yield fruit after various factors which affect economic performance interact.

In short, there are objective facts that justify our hope for a better future and our expectations of a relative improvement in the standard of living in just a few years. This is, in fact, how much time is needed to enable the economy to overcome the lean years and to squeeze out of the current bottleneck and become a state that provides its citizens greater prosperity and the ability to confront life.

Brothers and sisters, no fair person can deny that we are better off than many other countries and peoples which have not yet begun liberating their economies and which suffer under circumstances similar to ours. These countries are now paying a heavy price, one greater than they

could ever have imagined. Inflation rates in these countries have risen to inconceivable levels. Prices have increased by ten and even a hundred times. Product shortages have been evident. The currency has been devalued to extremely low levels. Corruption and unemployment have increased sharply. The standard of living of all classes of society has dropped frighteningly. The bonds between society and government has abated. These countries have paid this heavy price because they did not follow a gradual course of balancing the various steps of economic reform and the people's tolerance to bear the burdens of reform.

I am confident that we will emerge safe and sound from this bottleneck because we are following a gradual course of economic reform and because we have set a sound basis for an Egyptian revival, the elements of which are being finalized. We have established an infrastructure through which all facilities have been renewed. By all standards this constitutes a great achievement for the Egyptian people without which it would have been impossible to carry out the reform. It would have been impossible for us to have hoped for any real industrial or agricultural development to increase Egypt's potential and capability.

We have made solid progress in freeing up the Egyptian economy by ending all forms of distinction between the public and private sectors and by emphasizing the role of the private sector as a primary partner in development, without restrictions or limits. We made enormous efforts to prepare the world to support Egypt's efforts in its economic reform process. These efforts culminated in half of Egypt's debts being canceled. The confidence of international financial institutions in Egypt's economic future was renewed, and Egyptian products have become the subject of admiration and are welcomed in numerous international markets.

All signs indicate that we are moving in the right direction. The exchange rate has stabilized, inflation has been checked, the budget deficit has decreased, and a significant surplus in Egypt's balance of payments has been achieved for the first time in a long time. [applause] Even more significant was the creation of a new atmosphere of confidence in the Egyptian economy. This confidence has helped increase the volume and base of investment, which is no longer a risk. The Egyptian citizen has also regained his confidence in the banking system. He has become confident that his money and savings are secure. The number of Egyptians holding funds in Egyptian banks has doubled in the past five years. These funds now total more than 31 billion Egyptian pounds. Their savings in foreign currencies have also increased to approximately 16 billion Egyptian pounds. This bodes well because it reflects the credibility of clear policies aimed at ensuring savings, protecting private property, and treating them as things that cannot be touched.

No one can ignore the true revival in Egyptian agriculture which has come about as a result of the freedom given to farmers to choose their crops and the end of compulsory pricing and marketing. This policy damaged farming because farmers refused to plant crops which they did not think gave them enough return on their investment. All these are indications that give us hope in our ability to face the problem of unemployment, which affects a considerable number of our youth, through an ambitious plan in which the private sector will have a large role. The plan concerns investing about 80 billion Egyptian pounds within the next five years to create some 400,000 jobs every year.

We are confident that the private sector is fully aware of its social responsibility and realizes that this does not end by carrying out the material aspects of the production process; it extends to making a contribution to raising the standard of social, health, and educational services in areas where they are involved. It also extends to sponsoring workers, who are their partners in developing industry and agriculture here. This will contribute to a growing concept of social justice, which will always be one of the pillars of government in Egypt and a safety valve and guarantee for stability in this great country.

We have good examples of Egyptian businessmen who have become aware of their social responsibilities and have fully absorbed their national commitment. They have embarked on projects aimed at raising the social and cultural standard of their fellow citizens and raising the quality of health, educational, and entertainment services that are available in the various areas. In doing so, they have added a social dimension to their activity and repaid some of their dues to their country, which has granted them its confidence and blessing.

Frankly speaking, the state is doing all it can to help those who wish to help themselves by providing opportunities for productive and fruitful jobs, which fulfill their ambitions and add to the gross national product.

There is no point in seeking futile solutions—which are in essence a type of masked unemployment—by placing young people in government departments, which are already stacked with employees who have no real job to do. The value of a job lies in its product and revenue, in the honest effort a man makes in pursuit of lawful gains, and in the worker's feeling of pride in his work and his contribution to society.

We are willing to finance generous programs to train these young people in skills needed in the Egyptian market, which suffers from drastic shortages in several fields and unlimited surpluses in fields that society no longer needs.

Brothers and sisters, you know well that I am not one of those who sells extravagant hopes or encourages rosy dreams to relieve the burden of reality. I am also not one of those who promises things just for temporary pleasure. Since being honored with the responsibility of ruling this nation, I have always been frank and realistic in my vision of things and precise in studying every step of the road. [applause] My belief is that the ruling

process is a shared responsibility in which the ruler has to be honest with himself to avoid losing vision and with his citizens so that his decisions can be a response to real popular demands.

I have no doubt whatsoever that this great people, who have had many experiences with rulers, are well aware that shining promises and resounding slogans can never change reality unless they are coupled with honesty in both word and deed. I have kept my determination since taking office to give the people the facts so that we can realize together the dimensions of situations and find the correct course. [cheers]

I will always believe that the enormous annual population increase is the major obstacle to our aspiration for a better future. If we can take pride in Egypt as the largest Arab state, we should not forget that it had been the richest and most prosperous of all. Our pure religion emphasizes that the strong Muslim is much better than the weak. Our religion orders us to provide the necessary elements of power for man and society. The trap of the population explosion, however, gives us an enormous burden vis-a-vis religion. Our population burden exhausts all efforts to build a better future. It also depletes government and social efforts because any collective national surplus will be swallowed up by the annual population increase without providing a real opportunity for improving the standard of living.

Realizing the danger of the population problem, many societies have resorted to policies that give educational and health care incentives to smaller families. I see no need to pursue such rigid methods in addressing the problem here because I trust the common sense of Egyptian citizens and their ability to play a role in confronting this problem in a way that will keep the family happy and the homeland strong. My complete trust in the ability of our great peoples to pass through the stage of economic reform and its burdens stems from my deep faith that the people know the right path and are aware that the road to the future is clear.

We have passed the crossroads to a new stage of clear concepts. We do not have to choose; we have one choice and all Egyptians must work together to make it a success. Our only choice is to bolster the value of work and devote all our abilities and resources to it. Promoting the value of work means broadening the base of contribution and participation by providing opportunities for every able individual who wants to produce and yield. The state alone cannot bear all burdens. Our experience and that of others demonstrates that state control of the means of production is nothing more than bureaucratic domination of activities the success of which hinges on competition, creativity, and market laws.

The state's role in the upcoming stage must be essentially based on creating a positive atmosphere to enable every citizen to participate and help correct the imbalance that might affect social justice. They need to do this to preserve society's cohesion and social peace. As I have said to you before, the state's role must focus on taking care of the infrastructure and renovating and developing it. Without the right infrastructure, it is impossible to establish any productive project, be it industrial or agricultural in nature. The state must look at the rules and bylaws in order to remove all obstructions and restrictions which burden productive activity. The state should hasten to develop education, training, and scientific research establishments to make the Egyptian work force more capable of meeting the demands of an age in which quality production depends on new-age technology.

One of the basic challenges confronting the Egyptian renaissance is that it comes during a time when there has been a huge information revolution that has changed the means and methods of production and has raised the quality of products to very high standards. Outstanding skills are needed to compete in the world market. This information revolution provides production establishments with numerous means and programs to reduce costs to a minimum. These circumstances should prompt us to enhance cooperation between production establishments and scientific research establishments to make Egyptian products competitive in foreign markets which seek high-quality products that cost less.

We are standing at the threshold of the 21st century and its challenges. Competition is growing among able and strong economic cartels racing to win world markets. I think that we have many traits that can help us enter these markets with distinguished and competitive industrial and agricultural products.

Brothers and sisters, elevating the value of work does not only mean broadening the base of contribution and participation by providing opportunities to everyone who wants to contribute or participate. It also means the elevation of a new set of values that makes competence, loyalty, and honesty basic criteria for promotion, progress, and the choice of leaderships, and which restores respect for experience. Excellence should become a virtue that all members race to acquire. All these factors help strengthen a sense of belonging in production facilities and generate an appropriate atmosphere to establish a close balance between management and workers, making all workers one harmonious team that sees in the success of its establishment a personal success, because success will reward everyone.

I am not speaking of an ideal picture of something which Egyptian society lacks. I am speaking of realities that I have sensed in my numerous tours of many production sites in both the public and private sectors. There are reasons to take pride in many of these sites which, through good management, workers' enthusiasm, and relations of affiliation, succeeded and made progress. I can see nothing to prevent all Egyptian production sites from following this honorable example so that we can make Egypt a homeland capable of meeting its sons' needs.

We are no less capable than similar countries which through the efforts of their sons succeeded within a few years in compensating for shortages of natural resources and now rank among the countries that export diverse and plentiful products that fill world markets. We are no less capable than those countries. We have the Egyptian worker, who can excell and create if the right atmosphere is ensured. We have considerable natural resources, the greatest of which is Egypt's immortal Nile River. We have a broad base of capable specialists and experts whose excellence is internationally acknowledged. We have successful experience with many Egyptian work sites that should not remain isolated islands in the homeland.

Brother citizens, I do not want to underestimate our burdens in the upcoming stage in which performance must rise to a level capable of confronting our big problems. An honest look at our situation reveals that we are taking a step forward every day and that we are on the right path toward our sound goals. We are now reviewing certain aspects of our behavior, because we want our cohesive march to forge ahead on the path of reform and renaissance guarded by the people's awareness and clear conscience.

It is only natural that we will have among us certain opponents who are dissatisfied with having the truth presented as clear as daylight. They try, with harmful motives, to block this light. They fabricate false reports to implant doubts. They cast doubts on everyone to distort the march. They seek to plunge our youth into despair so that they can see no hope for the near future. Their utterances are false and their attempts will fail. [applause]

We will not keep silent about any deviation, whatever its source may be. We will deal with anyone who attempts to make money illegally, pursue him wherever he may be, and regard him as deviating from the national standard. We have an alert control system which pursues such people and makes certain of whether they are guilty, but it does not hold anyone because of false and malicious testimony. We have a qualified control system that exists in every institution and follows up every action by the government and the public sector, publishes its report, and refers any suspected deviation to the courts. We have an independent and honest judiciary which alone has the authority of the law and can punish the deviators and the corrupt.

Any honest comparison that considers the number of corruption cases uncovered by the state services will show without doubt that these cases are limited compared with the enormous accomplishments in the Egyptian work world, because our work force is full of honest and sincere people who seek to satisfy God and the country with their earnest and faithful work. Why distort the truth? Why speak lies and evil? Why are some seeking to distort the image of the whole society? We will not tolerate any defamation spread by such people under the cover of freedom of opinion and the press. We will ask the attorney general to look into these claims so that baseless suspicion will not remain a sword threatening the innocent and so that Egypt's image will not be distorted in the eyes of its people or the world.

On this occasion I would like to say something about corruption cases. We all follow corruption cases. We all know that corruption exists wherever there are people, in all countries of the world. There is one hundred times more corruption around us than there is in this country, but we never hear of one single corruption case being referred to court. You all know this. I do not need to explain. We have human beings here—not sinless angels. We have humans who make mistakes. There is right and wrong, and there is punishment. There would be no need for penal codes if everyone was an angel, no one made mistakes, and everything was ideal. We write about corruption in our press as if everything in the country is corrupt. This is damaging to us. Why don't you write about the case and the problem? Let us not exaggerate the problem. What happens is that the Egyptian citizen abroad will read this. He sees endless corruption where he lives. But someone tells him: Brother, all of your country is corrupt. Is this necessary? We say that we will not cover up any corruption. But do not over exaggerate. Do not make us look ugly. We are letting even the states which have corruption believe that we are more corrupt than they are. What happens is that those who want to come and invest here will be discouraged.

Compatriots, I do not know exactly what these people who raise slogans of democracy and supremacy of law want. Do they want us to return to an era in which people are punished based on suspicion and malicious testimony? Do they want us to spread terror and anxiety so fear will paralyze everyone's ability to make a decision? We would be quickly sliding backwards. The corruption cases which have been announced are cases which have been uncovered by the state services and investigated by the Attorney General's Office without intervention by the executive authority. These cases are in the hands of the judiciary. We will never hesitate to pursue cases of corruption in any form. We will not hesitate to strongly hit at the hands of the deviating and corrupt. Why then all this false clamor?

We will not [word indistinct] some of the misguided forces that are trying to undermine the Egyptian march of progress. I am referring to the misguided group which has adopted terrorism as a means of undermining the stability of this country and halting its progress and prosperity. These are the enemies of progress. They do not like to see Egypt becoming an oasis of stability in the region, a secure country that attracts Arab and foreign investors, a country in which hundreds of new projects are built which will double its productive capacity and open further work opportunities for its youth. Corruption, overexaggeration, and the spread of fear will result in a lack of investment in this country, a shortage of new jobs, further youth unemployment, and increased problems. This is a cycle. We must not exaggerate such matters as long as the state is not ignoring corruption.

What kind of state is this—it is all corrupt! Let us compare our situation with that of the entire world regarding corruption. We look very good. Despite the corruption cases we have, we look very good. We are human.

These people are the enemies of democracy. They are loathe to have the homeland experience a new atmosphere in which ideas prosper and the mind is elevated to the stage where it can distinguish between what is of value and what is worthless and between honesty and forgery, a stage where it can clearly expose to the light those who claim truths from those who claim falsehoods. They are trying through their crimes to block the way before Egypt, which is making efforts to find a way out of its economic crisis. They imagine that the bullets of terrorism can harm national stability or hamper the march of democracy.

No. The bullets of terrorism will not succeed because they are the voice of a misguided minority who have been diverted from the national consensus. Their goal is to destroy the homeland and make it revert to the worst kind of totalitarian government that eliminates every opposed or debated opinion. I tell those people: Egypt's stability proceeds from entrenched principles and it is impossible for a reckless handful of people to harm or destroy it. Among this abnormal minority could be some who are misguided by a loss of thought. They become prisoners to those who derailed their thinking from the correct course. What will our position be toward the advocates of evil and sedition, who have not hesitated to commit the worst crimes such as murder and robbery, and who have violated what is sacred? The crimes committed by such people in al-Fayyum Governorate and elsewhere are shameful in the eyes of all Muslims. They had absolutely no inhibitions about killing [word indistinct] attacking property and land, and desecrating sacred places. In fact, they allied themselves with mere criminals, spread sedition among the people, and even allowed themselves things that were forbidden by God to his believing servants.

They did all this in the name of religion, while religion disclaims them and all their deeds. The bullets of terrorism fired a few weeks ago which killed a policeman who was performing his national duty objectively and with absolute dedication, are bullets of treachery targeting Egypt's security and stability. They are sly bullets fired by that misguided minority at the heart of society in the hope of aborting its prosperity and progress. I repeat in front of you: We will not allow the advocates of evil to harm the stability and security of Egypt. We will not allow the advocates of ignorance and darkness to stop the march of the homeland toward its correct goals. We will not punish anyone for crimes committed by others, but with the authority of the law and with civil awareness we can deter those who have chosen terror as a method and means to threaten the safety of the homeland and citizens.

In the name of all of Egypt I salute the gallant policemen [applause]; I salute the gallant policemen who realize, stemming from keen awareness and deep belief, the nature of the atrocious objectives sought by this group. They make huge and dear sacrifices so that Egypt can remain a safe and stable homeland. We salute the watchful eye of Egypt's police, who protect the homeland from attempts by these saboteurs, maintain respect for the law and its dignity, and through their valiant confrontation of this misguided group protect every citizen on Egyptian territory.

The role of the police department in keeping the peace and stability in Egypt is complementary and supportive to the role of our armed forces. [applause] I salute these forces the heroic men of which aspire to defend Egypt's security against any outside dangers and deter any evil aggressor who believes he can threaten Egypt's territory, water, or skies and whose morbid dreams make him think that he can harm its sovereignty and undermine the freedom of its proud and great people. I salute the heroes of Egypt's armed forces [applause] who donate their blood and lives in the arena of sacrifice. They offer their most valuable men in a procession of honorable martyrs and set the example for loyalty to the great creator and the cherished homeland, which is like the sacred Valley Tuwa [part of a Koranic verse]. [chants and applause]

Brothers and sisters, confronting those who threaten the homeland's internal security must not be the sole responsibility of the police. It is the responsibility of the whole society, all its classes, and of official and national institutions, all of which must mobilize their capabilities in a practical program that will combat the phenomenon of (?terror), protect our youths against the delusionary calls that masquerade as religion, preserve our noble faith from the calls of falsehood that harm the magnanimity of Islam, and defend the homeland against the perils of sedition and division. It is the responsibility of the religious ulema who should unite with one voice against the gangs aiming to sow corruption. It is the responsibility of the state's organs and institutions, which should extend their activities and services to the densely populated areas, where these gangs think their ideas can find a suitable atmosphere. It is the responsibility of all political forces, which must realize the danger that these gangs pose to the democratic process and construction. It is the responsibility of the media, which must confront these gangs' black ideas and sinful designs which have nothing at all to do with religion, by exposing and refuting them. The media must draw the attention of all Egyptians to the imminent danger that threatens the homeland and jeopardizes their security and even their very existence.

Above all else, it is the responsibility of every good citizen, because the gangs' objective is to undermine stability and weaken Egypt's chances of economic and political advancement. What is impeding our march is the terror of a minority who are deviating from the national consensus, or the clamor of the mongers of

falsehood who undermine the truth. Nevertheless, the march will continue. Its objective is comprehensive reforms so that we may build a strong homeland in the tenacity and capabilities of which we take pride.

Comprehensive reform is the responsibility of not only the ruler but of the people and the government together; it is simultaneously the responsibility of the individual and society. In the reform process every one of us has a basic, indispensable role to play, aided by a sound democratic practice that consolidates the national accord on the homeland's higher interests, illuminates the path of reform through a free and constructive dialogue that uncovers the stumbling blocks along the way and its negative aspects, increases the people's confidence in their own capabilities, and enhances the individual's responsibility for the interests of society, which are also the interests of the individual.

Brothers and sisters, democracy is simultaneously a means and an end. It is an end because it is the best thing that human efforts and intellect can achieve to regulate society's relations in a manner that serves the interests of the individual and society and balances them in a way that preserves the individual's rights and society's peace and progress. Democracy is also a means because if it cannot achieve its goals of advancing society and upholding individuals' rights, it becomes a sort of futile argument the only effect of which is to distract people from their problems.

As I have often said, democracy is not just a slogan or a mold; it is not stipulations or demands. It is a way of life and a system of government; it is firm values that enhance society's ability to unite and act together to attain its proper goals.

It is not democracy to allow some to make others doubt their capabilities, exaggerate shortcomings that an isolated incident may reveal, and regard these shortcomings as a general phenomena caused by an irregularity in the Egyptian state or a deficiency in its basic structure. Our people are in good shape. They are still—as they have been throughout history—a people of values and principles, rejecting what is shameful, hating what is vile, shunning what is wrong, and supporting what is right. An isolated incident may take place here and there that demands punishment under the law. It demands objective study and scientific analysis to learn its significance and implications. But I do not agree with those who exploit fleeting, isolated incidents to portray all of Egyptian society as lacking ethics and a conscience and sinking into evil and corruption.

I appeal to the Egyptian press—both the national and party press—to heed God and examine carefully what they publish to safeguard the country's reputation and interests [applause] and to avoid exaggerations and generalizations that damage Egypt's image and its society, which still adheres most strongly to values and principles. [applause]

We consider freedom of the press one of the basic pillars of our democratic system. We support the right of the press to expose shortcomings and mistakes with accurate reports and objective and honest views, apart from the methods of incitement and exaggeration. It is also not democratic for some to stir up conflict among the various groups of people by making the reform process appear to be a comprehensive reward for a specific group of people. The country does not achieve progress without the unity of all its forces and the participation of all its members. Comprehensive reform benefits everyone, because it increases the country's capacities by increasing the circle of producers and strengthens the democratic process of decisionmaking by increasing the circle of participants. It is the homeland of all, the employee and the employer, the able and the unable, the tenant and the landlord, the public sector and the private sector. We build it together with love and joint effort and by maintaining a balance of interests among all citizens and unity under the canopy of social peace.

We are not going back; rather, we are moving forward with firm steps. We make our own decisions, which are dictated by our supreme national interests and our view of the indisputable pan-Arab goals. We learn from our past experiences and learn from the experiences of other nations, some of which were blown apart by the winds of division and disintegration, while others were able to achieve their objectives through the unity of the people and their support for the country's supreme interests.

I will go back to the economic reform program and the balance between prices and wages that I heard mentioned in the speech of the labor federation chairman. Actually, I hear this every year and on various occasions. I want to say: Is the state able to balance prices and wages but has failed to so? Had I been in an opposition party, I would ask this night and day. Show me any country in the world, the most prosperous countries of the world. Have they balanced prices and wages? Everyone in the world, even in the rich countries, complains about wages and prices. This is a fact. But we are trying our best to make it easier.

You know the economic reform program very well. We have fought hard in our economic reform program to reach the minimum stage we have reached. No other country has reached this stage. This gradual progress in Egypt has not taken place in any other country. I believe you have heard many things and I will not repeat names here. There are some people who deny things and are fighting hard, and they are still at the first stages we have already overcome. Some of them implemented reforms but could not see them through. So the state collapsed miserably, unable to recover. When the collapse starts, the country continues to fall apart. The reforms, which originally would have needed five years, will need 10 or 15 years as long as there is regression. During that 10 or 15 years the people will be exhausted. In our case, we will feel the pinch for five years, but after that we will have a revival. Prices will begin to stabilize and everything else

will follow. Things will improve. [indistinct voices from the audience] God willing, just call on God to support us.

We need to increase production and we all have to work on increasing production in any way possible. But our problem, dear brothers, is that although production has increased during the past 10 years, the population has increased by much more. We have increased by one whole nation: 13 million people in 10 years. This is a very big nation. Thirteen million! This means that the increase in production is immediately absorbed by the citizens. If we had not increased so much in population, our state might have been much better off than this. This is our destiny. This does not mean, however, that we ought to sit back and do nothing. We need to work on family planning so that our state can be constantly revived.

Let us talk about prices. Let me ask you the following: What did the government do for you this year? Do you have any idea what pensions were like during fiscal year 1981-82? I heard that pensions were very low, but I have to give you the figures just so you know. In 1981-82 total wages amounted to 1.984 billion pounds. Pensions amounted to 421 million pounds. In other words, salaries and pensions of the whole state amounted to 2.406 billion pounds. In 1991-92 salaries amounted to 8.287 billion pounds. Pensions amounted to 2.590 billion pounds. They used to be 400 million pounds and they jumped to 2.590 billion pounds. Pensions and wages in 1981 were 2.406 billion pounds; pensions and wages together in 1991-92 amount to 10 billion pounds. In 1992-93 we will reach 13.358 billion pounds. You will ask why this is so. I will tell you.

The new increment is 10 percent, 20 percent [comments and applause from the audience] 20 percent, I confirm. It is 20 percent. You take it so easily, but you ought to see the trouble we went through to reach this figure. The government was exhausted in achieving this figure, to get the funding. It had to generate 850 million pounds. To add on the increment of 1987-88, to make up 22 percent, you will be costing the government—of course, incentives will increase—230 million pounds. Don't you think the government [word indistinct]. Increasing pensions by 20 percent will cost the government 400 million pounds. The natural increases such as incentive increments, allowances, new appointments during the year, and pension increases will cost the government another 1 billion pounds. In other words, dear brothers, the increase in the general budget for this year amounts to 2.480 billion pounds. I cite this figure for you to realize that the increase in numbers is astounding. God help the president! Then, in the name of the Prophet, you ask for more. [indistinct question by member of the audience]. God willing. Have a little patience with us; we have to do things gradually.

Investments: This is of course in addition to the existing subsidies for commodities. The subsidy figures are enormous. The number of government employees has reached 4 million. We were a little over 1 million, but now we have reached 4 million. This indicates that we have too many employees. I mention this figure for the first time, and God help me, because when foreign institutions learn this, they will say that you are hiring government employees and you have a budget deficit. How can you correct the situation? They say this because I take loans from them. Pensions have increased 400 million pounds this year.

I will give you an example. About 700,000 housing units were built between 1971 and 1981. About 1.7 million housing units were built between 1981 and today. I am trying to show you the enormous expenses we are incurring. This is in addition to the expenses for electricity, water, agricultural land, and so forth. Endless problems have cost huge sums and investments. I think that investments in the past 10 years totaled 172 billion pounds. Had we not done this in the past 10 years we would not have reached the point we are at today. We would not have had agriculture, industry, utilities, or services. If there is no basic infrastructure, no investor will build, nor we could build a house for anyone to live in.

Let us talk a little about the media. Never mind. I say this to them in the hope that they will go along with us. I think that I am confident that they [words indistinct]. Take the al-'Atabah incident [an alleged rape during Ramadan], for example.

When I first read about the al-'Atabah incident, I want to tell you frankly that I was shocked. We have reached the point—this is what the papers reported—that such a crime would take place on a crowded street in al-'Atabah. Have Egyptians lost all manliness and chivalry? I really was sad. What could I do? Citizens saw a disgraceful action being committed before their eyes and did nothing. Does this make sense? I could not believe it. The press reported on the incident almost daily. After a few days I decided to inquire about it. I found out that the story was completely different. I asked the attorney general what the story was. I was told that nothing of this sort happened on the street. I began beating my head. What happened then? We created a scandal to the point that someone in any Arab state would say: I am afraid to send my daughter to your country because I am afraid something will happen to her. I urge the press—party and national—not to do this just to sell more newspapers. Such stories cause scandals. Any Egyptian abroad will feel such words like bullets in his body as a result of such unfounded stories published in the press. When the truth was learned, everything quieted down. We did this after creating a scandal. We must take the national feeling into consideration. We must take the feelings of our citizens, sons, and families abroad into consideration. Some people were saying that they will not allow their daughters to go out. Women became afraid to walk on the street, as if everyone will be attacked.

Another thing with regard to the press: When a case is pending before a court, there is no need to philosophize and say that this one is wrong and this one is right, this

one is guilty and this one is innocent. Do not interfere in the judicial system. Leave the courts to give their judgment. One case was pending before a state court and the press was already passing judgment. You are embarrassing the judge. Let the judge decide. Our courts are known throughout the world. If our justice system is shaken, democracy and the entire country will be shaken. I am proud that our judicial system is sound and enjoys credibility. [applause]

If a court rules, that is it. If you do not like the judgment, you can appeal through legal channels. There is a state involved in a case. I was asked: If you were in its place, what would you do? I said: If I were in its place I would bring him to trial here, because there is confidence and credibility in my judicial system, but you do not have credibility. You see how big the difference is. The development of the case and its implications are enormous. I urge the press to take this into consideration.

I do not think that you need me to speak about the economic reform program. We are continuously moving from good to better in our economic situation. The more resources we find, the more we will increase your salaries. Look at the neighboring states that were following the socialist and Marxist system, and see what happened to them. Their situation is bad, because they were late in embarking on economic reforms. Now they are in a situation in which there is a shortage of food and drink. Their currency, which was two to three to the dollar, is now 150 or 200 to the dollar. Thank God we have not reached this point and that we have started early. We should thank God. We are moving on the right course. It is true that there are some difficulties. We know these difficulties. But we are trying as hard as we can and as much as resources permit, and the government is working to ease the hardships for citizens.

Brother citizens, the world has witnessed drastic and interesting changes since we met last year. These changes must certainly leave their mark on the history of the world at this critical stage in which the international community is trying to settle situations resulting from the two world wars and the cold war that followed. It is laying the foundation for a new world order which is in accordance with developments affecting the new socioeconomic situation. There were once two superpowers. Now there is only one and the entire world supports it, including the former Soviet Union. It is now one power. [applause] In the past, some states used to play the well-known game; they would swear at one power and turn to the other for protection. In the present situation who will you swear at and who will give you protection? The best policy, therefore, is to be logical.

It is still too early to make a comprehensive and objective assessment of these changes and subsequent developments because the world situation is not yet stable. You can see that the socialist countries, the countries which broke away from the Soviet Union, and Yugoslavia are still encountering numerous problems. The international situation has not stabilized. I believe that many developments are going to affect the international situation. We can, however, determine the basic features marking the emerging new world order. Such a process does not come out of a vacuum; it is the outcome of interrelated and complex factors in which the past, the present, and the future interrelate. History is a continuous chain of connected links rather than an accumulation of random and arbitrary events.

It can be said that one of the positive features of this new world order is the principle of finding peaceful solutions to disputes and narrowing the scope of the use of force. If this is actually achieved, it will enable humanity to avert the threat of a destructive war and to dedicate a larger portion of its resources to establishing mutual development cooperation and building a more stable and just formula for relations between the advanced North and the South, which is struggling for survival and progress—that is, the underdeveloped South.

No matter how much is said about the secondary Third World role in establishing and consolidating this world order, after a close look we see that the medium- and small-size states, which make up over two-thirds of the international community, can play an active and effective role in this context, if they want to, in accordance with their size and capabilities. They can do this by contributing to the development of the rules that should govern international relations, particularly those applied to relations among themselves, or by getting acquainted with the realities of the new international world order and taking a positive and realistic look at them to realize that there is no absolute evil or absolute good. Everything in this world has both positive and negative aspects. A prudent man must invest the positive aspects and avoid the negative as much as he can. He should seek to steer events away from the courses that do not agree with his vision and interests; he should not take a rejectionist attitude or be a mere bystander who does not believe what is evident and clear to everyone. That man then laments the wasted opportunities which could have enabled him to influence the course of events or take part in drawing up a picture of the future.

Eastern Europe has undoubtedly been affected by changes in the past few years. Developments in these countries were among the most important factors paving the way for change in the international theater. We hope the states which underwent these changes will be able to overcome the difficulties facing them in this transitional stage—the most difficult and severe stage in history—so that they can resume their contribution to laying the foundations to the new international world order.

If we turn to the Middle East and Arab regions, we find that the most important developments last year were the resumption of the peace march—signalled by the Madrid summit of last October—and the aggravating dispute between the United States, Britain, and France and Libya. This crisis forebodes grave dangers and promises serious repercussions.

We were certainly pleased with the resumption of the peace march. We believe that peace is the foremost option available to all the region's peoples. Peace is the only way that we will achieve security and stability, spare the region the hazards of violence, bloodshed, and the squandering of resources, and enable it to plan for the future and continue the reconstruction march. Above all this, peace is the God-chosen course for the faithful, provided that favorable conditions are available and balance is achieved among the various individual interests.

No one can deny that the Arab parties involved have come a long way. They did not stop despite the obstacles and difficulties. On the contrary, these difficulties enhanced their will and determination to face the challenge bravely and without fear or panic. I would particularly like to note the courageous Palestinian stand, which seeks peace and the ability to face the challenge. This could have never been possible if the Palestinian people had no great struggle experience which molded their own vision through successive events [applause] and a courageous leadership which is capable of safeguarding the trust and shouldering the responsibility.

Israel should take the necessary measures and meet the Arabs half way and pave the way for a real coexistence which safeguards the interests of each party and guarantees legitimate rights. It is no longer a secret that this requires, first, the recognition of the land-for-peace principle; the end to settlement building in all occupied Arab territories, including Arab Jerusalem; and the end to conditional negotiations and obstacles to peace. These practices will serve no one, achieve nothing, or avert threats. On the contrary, they increase suffering and deepen hatred and malevolence.

I believe it is appropriate for me to appeal to the Israeli people from this platform, and in these days in particular, to make up their minds and declare their clear willingness to opt for peace and their desire to do what it takes to bring about a historic reconciliation between the Arabs and the Israelis. To every Israeli, I say it is high time to close the curtains on the past, with all its complexities and accumulated problems, and to reach an agreement with all your Arab neighbors which does not reflect the burdens imposed by occupation and hegemony or is based on obsolete concepts of superiority or expansionism. This agreement should flourish under a fraternity based on equality in rights and duties, mutual respect, and collective participation in facing the challenge of reconstruction and survival.

The peace talks are in progress. There is no alternative to these talks; even in the new world order there is no alternative. This is final. We wish we had proceeded according to the Camp David accords long ago, although some parties are still saying: We are against Camp David. Why do they not say they are against al-Sadat, not Camp David? Does Camp David exist? Camp David told them to withdraw from the land, namely that Israel would withdraw with its military forces from the territories to security points to be agreed upon in (?Cairo). There were no settlements or anything else at the time. That was what the accord stipulated. Had the accord been implemented, settlements would not have been built.

Today we regret not having implemented Camp David. Still, some here say: We are against Camp David. But against what, because there is no Camp David? Leader al-Qadhdhafi called it stable David, but later he praised it. I wish they [the Arabs] had listened. They were not satisfied with al-Sadat and hence they say that there was no need for Camp David. We have regained our land and everything else and we are keeping up with and aiding the peace process. We are making a great effort toward the peace process; we are making contacts with the Americans and the Israelis for the sake of peace so that we can attain the just rights of the Palestinian people. Today 75 percent of the occupied territories are covered with settlements. We had them in our hands without settlements. Today some still say that they reject the Camp David accords. How nice! Perhaps declaring such a stand would get them more money. These words are obsolete. [jokingly] I forgot Camp David; I no longer know what is in it. [laughter]

The dispute between the Libyan Jamahiriyah and the three Western states took on new dimensions after being referred to the UN Security Council and the International Court of Justice. I know that this dispute generates concern and dissatisfaction among you and the Egyptian masses. This prompted me to make strenuous efforts and spend sleepless nights trying to figure out how to avert further aggravating the situation and to avoid an escalation which would run out of control, eventually pushing the region into a wilderness that would benefit no one. Despite recent complications, I still believe that it is possible to find a just and acceptable formula which would serve each party's legitimate interests and spare the region tension, violence, and instability.

I have no doubt that all of you realize that the circumstances which prevailed in the past have changed completely. There is no power here and another there. There is only one wall to lean against. [laughter] It is not right to assume that policies are stagnant or inflexible. Some will criticize me in the press tomorrow and ask if there is really one wall. What is there then? Tell me. Perhaps I do not know. Perhaps I am living on a different planet. Do you understand me or do you not know? [laughter and applause]

It is just as wrong to assume that concepts last forever and never change. Eternity is a feature marking the God-endowed Koran alone. No man-made concept can rise to such sublime levels.

I will talk about Libya's issue. I will not get into details; I will only describe it briefly. When the issue began I had already heard about it. I am afraid that one of those who writes books might say: The president knew. Like I said

before the Gulf War, I was expecting serious developments. I said that based on my own assessment of the situation. Half a million soldiers and 2,000 aircraft headed for the Gulf, and the U.S. President was saying that it was inevitable that Kuwait would be liberated. He could not have withdrawn all these forces without liberating it; he would have been finished and respect for America would have been lost. One of our writers said: The president knew of the plan and experienced a slip of the tongue.

Last July I was in London. At that time they [journalists] asked why I went there during the 23 July Revolution anniversary, as though it were their anniversary and not mine—the revolution anniversary belongs to us all. An official approached me and told me that the issue of the Lockerbie ship [as heard] involved Libya and that they had irrefutable evidence of this.

One of the Libyans ran away and told the Americans everything. It seems that he was working with them. He gave them the details in full. He told them that neither Syria nor Iran are involved in the operation. This man proved the innocence of the latter two countries. Anyway, I told the Americans: I beg of you, do not inflate the entire issue more than necessary. I asked them to deal with it calmly and to try and find a solution. I did not want to tell the Libyans about this.

They told me: We will give you word the day that the verdict on the involvement of Libya is decided. I discussed things with the Americans over and over again. I tried to convince them that the colonel is a good man. He is obeying orders. He might have some problems with his aides, but he is now convinced that things need to be discussed. This is a fact.

The night before the last People's Assembly session, a foreigner, I think he was an Englishman, wanted to see me and tell me about what he had heard. He told me that the issue was going to be publicized. We wanted to tell you about this yesterday, but it is going to be publicized this afternoon, he said. I said this issue is a big problem. It affects the Libyan people and there is no need for all this. If the problem is one of compensation, I will talk to the colonel. He is doing his utmost and obeying demands. He has a few problems with which we will try to help him.

The whole issue just escalated. I will tell you frankly, I heard of a military operation against Libya. I talked with the United States several times about avoiding a military confrontation. I told them that it would be very dangerous, that we would not be able to defend such a move, and that we would not remain silent. [applause] The truth is that the U.S. President listened to me and said: Okay, there will be no strike.

When I was in Italy, I had Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa with me. A ranking official there told me that the Libyans were going to be hit four days before and that I had spoken to Bush and told him that we were opposed to a strike. He said: You spoke to Bush and the man stopped the operation. They were very happy that the operation had been stopped. This does not mean that the operation will never take place. I did not obtain a promise, but we do not want the crisis to reach that stage again.

As for the resolution calling for extradition, I cannot tell a country to extradite its citizens. I would not hand over Egyptian citizens because we have established procedures and courts. Their standards are different. We asked the Libyans what solution they had. The Americans started their deliberations on whether Libya should hand over the suspects. They then resorted to the Security Council resolutions. The final form of the issued resolution is very different from the original proposal. We made extraordinary efforts. We held extensive contacts. The international telephone lines were overloaded. I sent cables and received so many from the various sides. In the end, the Security Council met on the night of the Koranic revelation. After I had almost given up, I thought that if I made just a bit more effort I might achieve some results. I sent a message to President Bush and told him that this was the night of the Koranic revelation and that he was demanding the implementation of such sanctions. I said: I will be delivering a speech tonight on the Koranic revelation. It was an attempt on my part to stall things for a while.

They were accusing us of all sorts of things, and we reached the stage where things were backfiring in our face. In the end, he postponed the decision to that Tuesday instead of that Monday. He told me that nothing would be implemented before mid-April. There was no way out. I did the impossible.

Dear brothers, there is something that you need to know. Some said that Egypt's president must talk to Bush and Bush will listen to him. Why? Is Bush supposed to be on my payroll? He does not work for me. I cannot even give an order to [Egyptian opposition figure] al-Sabbahi. And they expect me to issue orders to Bush? [applause and laughter]

I am just giving you an example. [laughter] He is the president of the greatest country in the world. Our good ties with him enable me to give and take with him. The relations we have built with the United States over a long period are governed by logic. Perhaps another president would not bother to listen to me. In his latest message, President Bush told me that he reduced the Security Council resolution to only an aerial and military blockade. He cannot go any further because he faces pressure from inside his country and from the committee formed by the relatives of the aircraft crash victims. Certain voices were raised. You should know that I am limited when I talk with the United States and with any country. I talked with many governments—the British, French, and others. But there are limits, and I cannot exceed them. There is a red line that I cannot cross, because if I do, counterreaction will harm me and my

country. I make efforts provided that I do not harm my country. I am absolutely not prepared to harm my country. [applause]

In fact, Colonel al-Qadhdhafi understands this quite well. I explained the issue to him candidly, and he understands this quite well. There are certain people around him, however, who are annoying [mut'ibah]. They can hear me now, but I am speaking the truth. Some of them—and, regrettably, certain newspapers here in Egypt, I do not know why—repeated slogans about unity with Egypt. Col. al-Qadhdhafi understands that unity cannot be established by leaderships, and he told me this when certain people raised the issue. Unity must come from the people. When the peoples' interests merge and they ask for unity, I will go with the majority of the people. I cannot impose unity on the people. We have great experience with unity.

Someone said a solution to the problem lies in unity. I told him that I would be frank with him and not beat about the bush. Col. al-Qadhdhafi never asked for unity. Certain papers here are calling for unity with Libya. I do not know why they write about this. Unity would turn the problem between Libya on the one side and the United States, Britain, France, and the whole world on the other over to me. I have to take care of the interests of my 58 million people. It is not easy for me to endanger them. I am doing all I can to solve our own problems. We have solved many of our problems and I cannot afford to throw this away overnight. If we wasted our achievements we would need more than 30 years to attain them again. No one would believe me.

What should I have done with such people? Tell me, what can I do with them? There is pressure either to hand them over... [changes thought] I did not ask him to hand them over. I have nothing to do with this. He [not further identified] pressures me to entangle me in the confrontation with them. Either you hand them over or they will impose sanctions. Those who will impose sanctions are Britain, France, Europe, the United States, Japan, Russia, and many others. They would blockade us and thus I would endanger my country. If there were unity with Libya and I were forced to hand them over, we would be called traitors, agents, and so on and so forth. Unity would mean that I would get trapped. No, I would never accept that. [applause]

If anyone has a way to solve the problem, I will praise him. This is not a new Camp David agreement. This is dangerous. I would not hand them over. I would help Libya, but the Libyans should make the decision that suits them. I can help the Libyans as much as I can under the international circumstances, but I do not want to embroil my country in a catastrophe. If I imperiled Egypt, what could they do to help me? We have a large population with large interests.

I am giving as much assistance as I can within limits which will not harm the public interests of this people. I will never change this stand, regardless of the circumstances. [cheers and applause]

I welcome unity, provided that the people approve of it. You can make unity if you wish; I will not. The colonel understands that unity must come from the people themselves, not from the leaders. Leadership-imposed unity is a long game which has failed to work. We tried it several times. We must learn lessons from the past. If the grass-roots majority demands unity, I will say yesterday because it is the request of the people who are entitled to that right. Because you, Mustafa [Bakri, a columnist for MISR AL-FATAH], want to achieve unity with them, you can go ahead. [laughter]

Finally, brothers and sisters, it is necessary for us to note the developments of the past few months in South Africa, most notably the gains made by those who are calling for the repeal of apartheid and faster movement toward equality among citizens regardless of ethnicity and color. I want to tell you something. I am sympathetic to them and assist them as much as possible. Some of the assistance is public. Some assistance is only known to them and to the countries with which I am dealing. I can do no more. Everyone contributes what he can. I cannot exceed my ability. We welcome and support these developments and hope that they will be consolidated in the social and political fabric of this vital part of our glorious continent.

Brothers and sisters, the homeland is our concern. It is free nations which build their homelands in accordance with their will, drawing on the morals learned from their heritage, civilization, and history. We want a strong, capable homeland that will pursue its civilized role in human progress. We want it to be a secure country as God wants it, a torch which enlightens the path of righteousness, and a voice of peace which advocates justice. We want a homeland which upholds goodness and assists every sincere and honest friend in his adversity. We want a cohesive homeland with indissoluble bonds, one which grows greater with the efforts of its sons and citizens, is free from hatred and grudges, flourishing with free thought and sincere advice, nurtured by religious tolerance, enlightened by knowledge, upholding its sons' rights, and providing happiness for all. The homeland we seek cannot be built on illusory hopes or empty slogans. It will be built only through persistent and arduous work, the cooperation of the entire nation, and national consensus over following the path to the future.

This path is clear and unambiguous. It calls for further serious work so that Egyptian life can grow more prosperous and have a better future that dispenses its bounty to all. Work means upgrading society's capabilities until it can provide its sons' needs. It also means enhancing the homeland's status in a world where economic power has become a basic yardstick of progress and achievement. It means providing the resources for a continuing and comprehensive development that enshrines self-reliance. Work is above all a religious duty, a national

obligation, and a human commitment. It is the heritage of Egyptian civilization, which rose on this good, blessed land more than 7,000 years ago and taught humanity the meaning of progress. It is the boon of a great nation that worked and built continuously over the ages, establishing on its land magnificent edifices of endeavor that bear witness to the Egyptian individual's ability to defy the impossible.

The immense ancient and modern achievements and testimonials to Egyptian endeavor everywhere in this country demonstrate that work is an Egyptian virtue and that Egyptians are able to attain their objectives if an appropriate climate is provided and if they redouble their efforts and perfect their performance. Our collective responsibility is to create an appropriate climate for every capable person to invest and produce, for every creative individual to bring forth new achievements, for every worker to achieve and perfect. We must nurture talent, encourage success, emphasize quality, and cultivate sincere, competent, and experienced individuals. We must combat selfishness and a lack of team spirit and open the doors wide for every honest leader. We are not starting at the bottom, but indeed we have passed the most difficult stages.

We have laid the sound foundation of a proper democracy and established government on a plurality of views and honesty. We have restored to Egypt an infrastructure without which it would be impossible to continue building. We have provided the freedom of opinion and expression, which are subject only to the rule of law. We have changed many concepts that might have been suitable for other eras to benefit from a favorable international climate to further our pan-Arab and national interests.

Brothers and sisters, let us make a collective pledge to set Egypt on the road of great progress on the threshold of the 21st century to construct a hope that daily grows bigger with love and solidarity. We must conquer ourselves in order to be strong enough to surmount obstacles, have confidence in the future and give it the best that we now have, safeguard the homeland's right, and do what is right in the sight of God. God is the best protector and the best help. God's peace be with you. [applause]

Libya

CIS Advisers To Depart on UN-Approved Flights

NC0405145392 Paris AFP in English 1402 GMT 4 May 92

[Text] Tunis, May 4 (AFP)—Hundreds of military experts from the Commonwealth of Independent States and their families are to fly out of Libya on U.N.-approved charter flights over the next few weeks, a Russian spokesman said Monday.

The spokesman, speaking by telephone from the Russian Embassy in the Libyan capital Tripoli, said the flights would begin in the next several days with the approval of both a special United Nations committee and Libyan authorities.

The committee has been formed to monitor the application of Security Council Resolution 748, according to which Libya since April 15 has been under an arms and air traffic embargo.

The measure was approved after Tripoli refused to extradite two of its nationals to either the United States or Britain, where they are charged in the 1988 bombing of a U.S. airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland.

The experts, who have been assigned to projects throughout Libya, will fly out of Tripoli and the eastern Libyan city of Banghazi. An estimated 2,000 people are to be repatriated, including the family members.

Sudan

Security Source Denies Libyan Planes Sheltered

EA0405212792 Khartoum SUNA in French 1645 GMT 4 May 92

[Text] Khartoum, 4 May (SUNA)—A responsible security source has refuted reports according to which Sudan allegedly sheltered Libyan aircraft. The source termed the reports naive allegations and a badly constructed attempt.

In press statements to SUNA, the source pointed out that the entire world was aware of the movements of Libyan aircraft and that particular Western countries were well placed to monitor such activities. The security source also pointed out that the United States was able to watch all Sudanese airports to verify if such planes had been brought to Sudan.

The security official confirmed that the so-called allegations were just ill-intentioned reports and that they did not merit any comment.

It should be remembered that foreign media reports had said that several Libyan planes had landed in Sudan.

25 Iranian Hezbollah Members Arrive in Khartoum

NC0505083492 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic
29 Apr 92 p 6

[From "The Brothers" page]

[Excerpt] The clandestine Sudanese newspaper AL-MAYDAN reports that 25 members of the Iranian Hezbollah organization arrived in Khartoum via Amman, Jordan on board a Sudanese aircraft on 7 February 1992 [date as published].

The paper says that the Iranian personnel were received by ranking armed forces and security officers. The Hezbollah members were exempted from passport, immigration, and customs procedures. They were transported directly from the aircraft to destinations unknown to ordinary security authorities and amid stringent security measures.

Press reports have recently indicated that Khartoum has become an international center for activities of these types of groups. [passage omitted]

Tariq 'Aziz Discusses Oil Exports, Turkey, Kurds

TA0505100292 Ankara Show Television in Turkish 1835 GMT 4 May 92

[Interview with Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz by Mehmet Ali Birand in Baghdad for the "32d Day" program; date not given—recorded in English with superimposed Turkish translation]

[Text] [Birand] Negotiations between Iraq and the United Nations have been going on for the past six months. It is Tariq 'Aziz who is actually conducting these negotiations. He is Saddam Husayn's representative abroad.

['Aziz] With the conditions that the UN members want to impose, they are trying to turn Iraq into a colony. We accept things being out in the open. We have allowed them to control all aspects of oil sales and the goods we import from other countries. We are in favor of openness, but they want to distribute food and medicine to the people themselves. We cannot accept this, even from the United Nations. They have no right to do this. These are our people. We are still an independent and sovereign country; we are not slaves.

In actual fact, it is the United States and Britain that are doing this, as well as France to a certain extent. They want to govern Iraq, using the United Nations as a tool. If they attempt to colonize Iraq by taking advantage of the people's need for food and medicine, we will oppose this. Of course, the people are also opposed.

[Birand] Disagreements also emerged with the United Nations during the destruction of the missiles. Your military force was reduced, especially in terms of ballistic missiles. What is Iraq's situation today? How would you assess your condition? Weak? Very weak?

['Aziz] They destroyed all our advanced weapons. They also destroyed the factories that manufactured these weapons. Iraq is very much weakened today. The balance of power in the region has greatly changed. For example, Iran and Israel have weapons with which to hit us. The same is not true for us. The West is knowingly weakening Iraq. This, in turn, is adversely affecting the regional balance of power.

[Birand] Are they trying to overthrow Saddam?

['Aziz] Yes, that is true. They openly declare their intention to overthrow both the government and the leader.

[Birand] If the United States so wishes, can it not overthrow Saddam easily? It is a very powerful country.

['Aziz] No. That would be foolish. As we repeated on numerous occasions, the Iraqi people are proud and would never bow to outside orders. It is not very reasonable for the United States or Britain to say that they do not like the present government and to ask us to change it.

[Birand] Are we moving toward a new order? Is the United Nations coming to the foreground?

['Aziz] We cannot call it a new order; if anything, it is a new disorder. Currently, the world is experiencing U.S. sovereignty. The United States is dictating its wishes to everyone and choosing its own targets. Everyone must be disturbed by this state of affairs. First, the target was Iraq; now it is Libya; and tomorrow it will be another country's turn. Moreover, the United States is applying double standards. Everything changes whenever the issue concerns Israel. UN resolutions are allowed to remain on the shelf for years when it comes to Israel. If Libya delays implementing a resolution by a few weeks, however, an embargo is immediately imposed on it.

[Birand] Iraq has three ways to sell its oil. One of them is the oil pipeline across Saudi Arabia. The Saudis are not expected to allow it to reopen. The second is through the pumps in the Gulf. These are now being repaired, but this option will be more costly. The third way is the oil pipeline through Turkey. From Iraq's viewpoint, it is much cheaper to pump the oil to the Mediterranean. Turkey also wants this. In this way Turkey will at least partially recover some of its losses, which exceed $5 billion. There is a new obstacle, however.

['Aziz] We want to use this pipeline, but it goes through regions not under our control. The pipeline originates from Karkuk, which is under government control, but it then passes through the Kurdish area as it crosses to the Turkish border, and this region is not under our control. It is in a region where it can be attacked by terrorists at any time. How can we pump oil through this? They can stop us whenever they want.

[Birand] The Turkish Government can reach an agreement with the Kurds and give you a guarantee on this matter.

['Aziz] Turkey can only guarantee the section on its own territory. It cannot guarantee the section on Iraqi territory. How can it do this? Will it send its Army into Iraqi territory to protect the pipeline? In that case, let them leave it to us and we will protect it. The allies are preventing this.

[Birand] In other words, will you not use the oil pipeline through Turkey? Will you sell your oil from the Gulf?

['Aziz] Yes, but this is not a problem that can be resolved at the table, because it is not political in nature. Actually, it is to our economic and political advantage to use this pipeline. Above all, we want to reinstate economic relations with Turkey. Furthermore, using the pipeline would cost less than using the Gulf outlet. In this way, we would start our cooperation with Turkey, but the problem is external.

[Birand] If you were to meet Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel tomorrow, what would you say to him?

['Aziz] I can say that the new Turkish government has more common sense than the previous one. We no

longer hear some of the statements we used to hear in the past. I do not know Demirel personally, but I follow his policies closely. He is governing Turkey more in line with traditional Turkish policies. He is more careful concerning the traditional ties between the two countries and peoples; however, everything stops at this point. No concrete steps have been taken to develop bilateral relations. Only the atmosphere has improved.

[Birand] In your opinion, what should have been done?

['Aziz] I believe that first, diplomatic relations must be established. Second, commercial relations must be initiated. This is entirely normal and does not contravene UN resolutions. There are certain products that Turkey can easily sell to us in the course of normal trade. Even this is not being done.

[Birand] After the Gulf War Kurdish leaders sat at the negotiating table. Old enemies shook hands. The negotiations entailed autonomy for the Kurds. According to the autonomy plan the Kurds will elect their representatives and govern themselves with their own institutions and their own police. In defense and foreign issues, however, they will be attached to Baghdad. The only area of disagreement concerns the borders of this region. In other words, who will get what share of the oil?

['Aziz] We accepted all their reasonable demands. We granted them autonomy, which is not a division of the country. They will continue to be a part of the Iraqi state, and they will govern themselves. They, in turn, decided to send a delegation to Washington under Talabani. When the Americans told them not to sign the agreement reached with us, they changed their minds.

[Birand] Now the Kurds in northern Iraq will hold elections. Do you think this is an initial step toward an independent Kurdistan? Does the West want an independent Kurdistan?

['Aziz] At this moment no one wants an independent Kurdistan, neither in Iraq nor anywhere else. Throughout history, the Kurdish problem and Kurdish rebellions have been exploited to disrupt the stability in the countries where they reside. The Kurdish card was used to weaken Iraq. For example, there is no demand for an independent Kurdistan in western Turkey, but terrorist movements want Kurdish rebellions in order to destabilize Turkey.

[Birand] How would they benefit from this?

['Aziz] By weakening everybody. Divide and rule and colonize. By dividing us and weakening us from the political, economic, and security viewpoints, the Western countries will become stronger against us and will be able to rule us more easily. As they weaken Turkey and Iraq, we will be reduced to a position where we need them. This is what they want. The establishment of an independent Kurdistan is not to the advantage of the West, because then it will not be able to use the Kurds as it did in the past. The Kurds will form a state and will be forced to establish ties and cooperation with Turkey and Iraq. The West will not be able to play them as cards. The problem will be solved. They will not be able to use this card in order to drive Turkey or Iraq to instability.

[Birand] The Gulf War inflamed the Kurdish problem. Where in your opinion is this leading now?

['Aziz] First of all, the idea of independence is not realistic. Above all, the Kurds are divided. There are Kurds in Iraq, Turkey, Iran, and Syria. It is impossible to bring them together. Take the Kurds in Iraq as an example. They are unable to unite under a single leadership. They are divided into eight to 10 different parties. There are several tribes, each with its own leader. None of them are willing to be ruled by the others. Certain Kurdish leaders are aware that they are being exploited, and they know that this does not benefit their people. Some others, on the other hand, like to be used.

[Birand] Which is good and which is bad?

['Aziz] In his talks with us in Baghdad, Talabani admitted that he is being used as a tool to weaken Iraq, but he also likes to be used. He tours Western capitals and is received by ministers. He receives financial support from foreigners. If he becomes a minister, he must make do with a salary. Those who want to weaken Iraq are acting generously. They have turned this into a business.

[Birand] Thank you very much.

UN Probe of 'Bloody' Los Angeles Events Urged

JN0405184792 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1815 GMT 4 May 92

[Text] Iraq has called for the UN Security Council to convene an urgent session to examine the situation in Los Angeles and the repression and racial victimization to which its civilian population is being subjected. INA's New York correspondent said that an urgent message sent by Iraq's permanent mission to this month's Council president, Austrian Ambassador Peter Hohenfellner, stated that it behooves the Security Council to examine the bloody incidents that took place in Los Angeles and other U.S. cities. Iraq emphasized that the Council should pass a resolution along the same lines as its previous resolutions and those adopted by the U.S. Administration and its criminal President George Bush.

The message pointed out that while the U.S. Administration defends human rights in Iraq with undue zeal, it advocates the use of repression and armed force against defenseless citizens. It also pursues racial segregation and persecution on racial grounds and ethnic origin. Such policies, Iraq's letter added, are a serious violation of human rights, the International Declaration on Human Rights, and the UN Charter.

SAIRI Urges UN Intervention To Halt Attacks

NC0405162792 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 4 May 92

[Text] The Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI] has called on the UN Security Council and Jan Eliasson, personal representative of the UN secretary general for Iran and Iraq, to quickly intervene to rescue the inhabitants of the southern Iraqi marshlands from an annihilation campaign by the repudiated tyrant Saddam Husayn's regime and to immediately halt the military operations in these areas.

In two separate letters it sent to the UN Security Council permanent members and Eliasson, the SAIRI said that the tyrant's regime is committing a large-scale massacre of innocent people in Iraq's southern marshlands. SAIRI urged the UN secretary general to send an international fact-finding mission [to southern Iraq] to present a detailed report to the UN Security Council with a view to taking the necessary measures to ensure the protection of the southern inhabitants and to halt their forcible collective displacement.

The SAIRI said that it is crucial that the United Nations protects the children, women, and elderly and that it compels the tyrant's regime to withdraw its forces from the area and put this area under international protection through a UN Security Council resolution, because the tyrant is trying to implement rapidly his policy of mass annihilation before the United Nations and the UN Security Council, which realize the seriousness of the situation in southern Iraq, are able to intervene.

Minister Pledges 'Surprises' in Industrial Output

JN0405185592 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1754 GMT 4 May 92

[Text] Al-Basrah, 4 May (INA)—Lieutenant General 'Amir Hammudi al-Sa'di, minister of industry and minerals, has emphasized that the coming days will reveal big surprises in terms of industry and inventions, in an important effort to break the technology blockade against Iraq.

In a news conference on the sidelines of a celebration marking the reopening of the first Karmat 'Ali bridge in al-Basrah Governorate, the minister said that more than 50 establishments within the Industry and Minerals Ministry, together with the mixed sector and the mujahid men of military industrialization, are working day and night to create alternatives to implement production plans in factories. He said that the manufacturing of compressors, fire bricks, and tractors is a source of pride for Iraqi industry.

The minister explained that the five bridges with navigation segments, the construction of which was assigned to the ministry by the higher committee of the state's central effort, will be accomplished soon. Al-Basrah will then be linked with the neighboring governorates by permanent bridges which will replace the suspension bridges built as temporary alternatives following the U.S.-Atlantic aggression.

Concluding, the minister said that with the opening of the first Karmat 'Ali bridge the higher committee of the state's engineering effort has already completed 90 out of the 133 bridges targeted by the 30-state aggression.

'Chemistry' Between Rubenstein, 'Abd-al-Shafi Seen

TA0405160192 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 4 May 92 p 11

[Commentary by Pinhas 'Inbari: "Talking About Interim, Meaning Permanent"]

[Text] Like its predecessors, the most recent round of Washington talks has produced neither a breakthrough nor concrete progress in negotiations, although there are subliminal signs of a newly developed chemistry between the chief Israeli and Palestinian delegates, Elyaqim Rubinstein and Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi. This chemistry is offensive to Shamir, and it will bear fruit only if the Israeli regime is replaced. The key to understanding what went on in Washington lies in Rubinstein's observation that he now has a better understanding of the Palestinian positions. 'AL HAMISHMAR has obtained the text of a letter Rubinstein handed to 'Abd-al-Shafi on 26 April, the first day of talks [date as published]. An analysis of the text leads one to conclude that Shamir cannot be happy with Rubinstein's approach and that Rubinstein is closer to the approach Rabin is likely to adopt if he becomes prime minister in a few months.

Rubinstein's letter is a masterpiece of formulation, which is highly reflective of Israel's approach to the negotiations as well as of internal Israeli disputes. When all the additional information concerning the talks is taken into account, it becomes obvious that not only the Palestinians but all the sides speak of interim arrangements but mean permanent ones.

Rubinstein rejects the Palestinian proposals for self-government for an interim period because they are liable "to frustrate a priori any option for a permanent solution, with the exception of a Palestinian state." Beyond that, however, he does not rule out any concrete Palestinian proposal—not even the one for elections to an autonomy council. Just as 'Abd-al-Shafi did not reject the municipal elections proposal, Rubinstein did not reject the idea of elections to an autonomy council. Rubinstein sees no wrong in the Palestinians' attempt to mold the permanent arrangements into the shape of a Palestinian state, but he protests the fact that the Palestinians give the other options no chance. He is aware that all the sides, including Israel, have already formulated their views on the permanent arrangements and would like to implement them at once through the vehicle of the interim arrangements.

The last round of Washington talks may be remembered as "negotiations for municipal elections," because statements by Defense Minister Moshe Arens and Yosi Ben-Aharon, the director general of the Prime Minister's Office, on the eve of the Israeli delegation's departure for Washington made it clear that the Israeli response to the Palestinian proposal for general elections to self- government institutions would be a counterproposal for limited municipal elections.

Rubinstein's initial declarations, however, were very restrained. On the day that Arens spoke confidently of the municipal elections proposal, Rubinstein spoke merely of "serious proposals." A careful perusal of his letter explains the reason.

First of all, it is worth noting that Rubinstein's letter lowers the level of commitment and the rank of the parties, employing personal rather than official phrasing as much as possible. The letter is not written on the Israeli delegation's official stationery but on that of the cabinet secretary. It is addressed to "Dr. H. 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian side of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation," rather than to the Palestinian delegation, and the sender is "Ambassador E. Rubinstein, head of the Israeli delegation." The first phrase—"I am writing to you..." indicates the general tone of the letter, which is as personal as the formal circumstances permit. Later in the letter, Rubinstein refers to personal phone calls, holiday wishes, and so forth.

This is not the first time Rubinstein has used such a personal style in a letter. During the first round of talks in Washington, the Palestinians were angry about the personal nature of Rubinstein's style, asserting that his attitude to the Palestinian delegation was disdainful and that he was refusing to acknowledge the delegation. However, they misinterpreted the cause of the Israeli chief delegate's manner of conversing with them. The truth is that some rather complicated gaps separate Rubinstein from the members of the Israeli delegation to talks with the Palestinians and from other members of the top political echelons, such as Yosi Ben- Aharon, possibly Defense Minister Moshe Arens, and definitely the prime minister himself, who has so far kept silent.

The breach between Rubinstein and the others crosses through the Camp David accords. Rubinstein and his people are committed to the Camp David accords and want to pursue the talks with the Palestinians along the lines of the accords and on the basis of the agreements already achieved with Egypt. Shamir and Arens, as is well known, opposed Camp David, and they—together with Yosi Ben- Aharon, the head of the delegation to talks with Syria—persist in their opposition even today. Their objective in the talks with the Palestinians is to revoke de facto the Camp David accords, and the prime minister has already made explicit remarks on this issue at the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee after the previous round of talks.

Thus, there is a difference between the way Rubinstein and his people perceive the municipal elections and the way that Shamir, Arens, and Ben-Aharon see them. The latter are interested in holding these elections in a bid to revoke the Camp David accords and to turn the municipal elections into an alternative to the real elections, while Rubinstein rejects that perception. Being aware of the differences of opinion and of the danger of Shamir reneging on his commitments to the Palestinians at the

last moment, Rubinstein is being very careful not to burn his fingers with Shamir's reputation as one who does not keep promises.

The municipal elections are merely one of the options to improve the atmosphere in the territories. They have no political significance and they do not block any option for a different type of elections. On the contrary, "on the basis of an agreed-upon and prepared plan, they [the elections] will be able to help improve the atmosphere and will be a sort of pointer by which it will be possible to evaluate the situation and to prepare the ground for the upcoming steps and stages," Rubinstein wrote to 'Abd-al-Shafi. In the letter, Rubinstein also recalls the difficulties with the fundamentalists and extremists in the territories, hinting that it is preferable to start with municipal elections, not to revoke the elections for the legislative authority but to improve the atmosphere leading up to those elections. In other words, just as the Palestinians did not reject outright the municipal elections, Rubinstein has not ruled out the general elections. Rubinstein's opposition to those elections is not a question of principle but derives from his doubts about the ability of the Palestinians to implement them.

Shamir and his cohorts do not think the same way. To understand their mood, we must follow the disputes inside the National Religious Party [NRP]. While the moderates in the party stick to the Camp David accords as part of their readiness to also become members of a government headed by Labor, the hawkish wing, which is prepared to join only a Likud-led government after the elections, speaks openly about abrogating the accords and adopting the "municipal autonomy" model in its place. Whoever believes that the extremist wing in the NRP is already speaking about the model for the permanent arrangement that Shamir will want to raise in the next stage of the talks is not mistaken. Under that reasoning, the municipal elections are permanent arrangements: no longer a West Bank as a single unit, but one made up of municipalities, a sort of "Nabulusland," "Janinland," Hebronland," and between them massive walls of settlements cropping up. In yesterday's cabinet meeting, Shamir did speak about municipal elections which do not block options for the future, but that was done to cheat the Americans. Shamir speaks in the same tone as Rubinstein, but in reality the settlements block the options.

Rubinstein's letter shows lack of confidence in the ability to conduct elections in the territories which would have real political significance, and due to Shamir's different outlook, he doubts in particular the possibility of implementing municipal elections. One can learn about Rubinstein's lack of excitement about the municipal elections idea from the order of priorities he outlines in his letter. Rubinstein, like Shamir and the Palestinians, wants to build permanent arrangements out of the interim arrangements, but in contrast to the spectacular approach, which calls for elections whose outcome is unclear, Rubinstein takes a practical approach based on sure footing. He does not want to wait for the formal agreements but to set up already the basic outlines of the permanent arrangements, the main ones being the "joint committee." The approach by Rubinstein and the members of his delegation is to create patterns of practical cooperation with intifadah activists who already support the delegation, and they view that and not the elections as the main issue.

In his letter, Rubinstein speaks about the joint committee drafting the agenda for the talks, but in the document he presented in the previous round of talks he referred to joint committees which will gradually transfer the powers of the Civil Administration to the Palestinians.

Rubinstein's businesslike approach finds its expression in his efforts to form with 'Abd-al-Shafi contacts outside the framework of the official discussions. In his letter, he reminds 'Abd-al-Shafi of his efforts to get in touch with him during 'Id al-Fitr to extend holiday greetings and to reach an understanding with him on the agenda which lays out the guidelines for transferring the powers of the Civil Administration to the Palestinians. The Palestinians understood those attempts to be an Israeli effort to break up their delegation and cut if off from pan-Arab coordinating efforts. That is true, but not exclusively. Rubinstein wants to move the contacts with the Palestinians along practical lines, as far as possible, in order to hand them the Civil Administration's authorities. That approach can be seen in Rabin's order of priorities: first of all an arrangement with the Palestinians, afterward with Jordan, and lastly with Syria. That order of priorities is also the reason that Syria is pressuring for pan-Arab coordination, but it can be reassured: As long as Shamir is prime minister, there is no fear that the Israeli Civil Administration will be handed over to the Palestinians. It should start to worry only after Rabin becomes prime minister.

But the attempt to speed up the practical arrangements with the Palestinians does not mean that Rubinstein is ready to desert Jordanian interests, at least not as long as he serves under Shamir. We should note the heading of his letter: 'Abd-al-Shafi is head of the Palestinian side [preceding word in boldface] of the joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation. In other words, to Rubinstein the Palestinians do not have a delegation but are part of the delegation in which Jordan has priority and preference. Rubinstein's previous document also referred to tripartite committees made up of Israel, the Palestinians, and Jordan. In other words, Rubinstein and his team aspire to the establishment of a tripartite political framework. One hopes that it is referring to equal status for the Palestinians, but the refusal to recognize 'Abd-al-Shafi as head of delegation leads to a different impression: That treatment is an expression of a concept based on a permanent arrangement under which the territories will in the future be run by Israel, the Palestinians, and Jordan, with Israel and Jordan having preferred status over the Palestinians, who will be asked to agree to a sort of Israeli-Jordanian condominium. There is no foundation for such a solution and it lowers the Palestinians to

the worst political standing—this coming after their great suffering during the intifadah.

Rubinstein's reservations about the municipal elections can be seen in the advice he gave his Palestinian colleague to take into account the mood of the radicals in the territories, including the fundamentalists. That problem is shared by Israel and the Palestinians, but the setting up of the joint committees to hand over the powers of the Civil Administration might for the first time provide joint Israeli-Palestinian frameworks for a joint struggle against the radicals. That is another reason why Rubinstein prefers the joint committees, whose composition is known, to elections whose outcome is unknown.

Israel managed to carry out a plan to hold elections for the Chambers of Commerce in the territories but stopped short of its initiative "to go one step further" and to conduct also municipal elections. Rubinstein reminded the Palestinians how democratic Israel is and how it is therefore interested in holding elections in the territories, but the Palestinians reminded him that at its own initiative Israel stopped the process of orderly municipal elections broached by Moshe Dayan and got rid of the mayors democratically elected in the last elections in the territories. In the existing security situation, even if Israel wished to conduct general elections in the territories under its control, it could not do so since it would have to deploy the entire Israel Defense Forces to safeguard them. Israel itself let the genie out of the bottle and now cannot get it back in again.

Arens Denies Shoot-to-Kill Policy in Territories

TA0405175892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1700 GMT 4 May 92

[Text] Israel's Defense Minister Moshe Arens has denied that the Army has a shoot-to-kill policy involving undercover units in the territories. Arens was reacting in an interview with Alan Ben- 'Ami.

[Begin recording] [Arens] The units that operate against terrorist gangs in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza operate in accordance with the strictest of regulations that have been laid down, that are in full accordance with Israeli law. We do not permit any deviations from these regulations. I do not know that there is a military force anywhere in the world that is engaged in fighting terrorism that is observant to such an extent and is limited to such an extent by the regulations as are the Israel Defense Forces [IDF], and yet they have been doing an excellent job in locating terrorist gangs and apprehending terrorist gangs. The results speak for themselves, and I think that whatever criticism you may hear, in most cases it is from people who are simply disappointed that the IDF is being successful against these terrorist gangs.

[Ben-'Ami] Yet, by the very nature of their work, these units have quite a freedom of action in movement and in decisions taken in the field themselves. You do not feel that perhaps some of them may be using the freedom of decision perhaps a little too quickly because of the situation they are in?

[Arens] They have no freedom of action at all when it comes to using firearms. They have very strict regulations under which circumstances they are allowed to use firearms, and it is only in those cases where their life is in danger or in the cases where they are apprehending a suspect who refuses to surrender. The activity that you see and the success that you see of the IDF is the direct response of the IDF to a wave of terror that began sweeping Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza in the last few months of 1991 in parallel with the beginning of the peace process and with the express purpose of trying to derail the peace process, and we are taking the necessary measures to put a stop to that wave of terror, and I think the Army is successful in doing what it is doing. [end recording]

Defense Budget Increased by 120 Million Shekels

TA0504133592 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 4 May 92 p A8

[Report by Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpt] The defense establishment is to soon receive a 120- million shekel addition to its budget on the special dispensation of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. Sources at the Treasury and the defense establishment yesterday reported that a request submitted by the latter several months ago has been approved. The Treasury came out against this increment. Treasury officials opposed any deviation from the budgetary framework and claimed that the defense establishment had already received enough. The defense budget is 14 billion shekels. The defense establishment appealed the Treasury's decision to the prime minister, who decided to transfer the funds.

A Treasury official pointed to the magnitude of the budgetary infusion, adding that no government ministry had received similar supplements. The source said that the increment required the approval of a Treasury committee and that the money would be transferred to the defense establishment during May.

At the same time, it appears that the defense establishment has also submitted a request for an additional 120 million shekels, but this will be jointly discussed by Finance and Defense Ministry officials only in July. It has been learned that the Treasury opposes the second increment, and the prime minister may well again be called in to settle matters. The IDF regards the second supplement as crucial for the absorption of immigrants into the military. [passage omitted]

National Religious Party Platform Formulated

TA0405181092 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 4 May 92

[Excerpts] The National Religious Party (NRP) Central Committee discussed the party's platform for the

Knesset elections. The NRP views the imposition of Israeli law on Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip as a political aim. It says that a Palestinian state will not be established in Eretz Yisra'el and Jewish settlement will continue in all parts of Eretz Yisra'el. Ze'ev Kohen reports:

The NRP positions itself unequivocally on the right of the political map. The following is its platform. The platform says the NRP views the imposition of Jewish sovereignty on all of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip as the political aim of the State of Israel, and it will act to have it implemented within the framework of a decision on the permanent status of those areas. On that basis we should conduct honorable and fair negotiations with the Arab residents of the territories on their rights and duties on the personal and municipal levels in the State of Israel and on their civilian rights within the framework of a neighboring Arab state.

On autonomy, the platform says that a Palestinian state will not be set up in Eretz Yisra'el and the Jewish settlement drive will continue in all areas. The NRP supports the continuation of the peace talks begun by the outgoing government. The NRP will oppose any autonomy plan which might lead to a Palestinian state and undermine the Jewish settlement drive in Judaea and Samaria. On the basis of those principles, the autonomy plan as worked out in Camp David cannot be accepted as part of the peace plan and the NRP will demand it be changed in accordance with its platform. [passage omitted]

The platform also says that the NRP will demand extending Jerusalem's boundaries eastward. It will demand the setting up of additional Jewish neighborhoods on state lands in East Jerusalem. It welcomes Jewish settlement in East Jerusalem and will help in that settlement drive. There were, of course, other issues in the platform, but politics and security were the main ones.

IDF Employing 'Mobile Outposts' in Territories

TA0405113992 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 4 May 92 p A7

[Report by Eytan Rabin]

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has recently begun employing a new method involving "mobile outposts." As part of the new approach, dozens of small outposts have been set up, primarily on the main traffic axes and in other key urban locations under the Central Command's authority.

According to the plan, which was formulated by Major General Dani Yatom, the commander of the Central Command, the outposts are dismantled and transferred to different locations every few weeks, as dictated by security requirements. Many such outposts were visible during a tour of the West Bank. Some of them are mounted on the roofs of buildings and some are positioned at the entrances to the refugee camps. This enables IDF troops to monitor all developments in these locations.

At the beginning of the intifadah, when widespread disturbances were the norm, many fixed outposts were established, but this was never proved effective and many of them were dismantled.

Qezi'ot Detainee, Teen Killed by IDF Gunfire

TA0505110292 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 5 May 92

[Report by Moti Amir, correspondent in the territories]

[Excerpts] An inmate of the Qezi'ot detention facility who was affiliated with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] attacked a military policeman this morning and tried to stab him with a sharp object. The military policeman was slightly injured in the hand, but managed to push the assailant against a nearby fence. A soldier on guard who saw the struggle fired at the prisoner, critically wounding him. The prisoner, whose name has not been released, later died of his wounds. [passage omitted]

An investigation conducted by the Qezi'ot prison commander reveals that the soldiers behaved appropriately throughout the incident.

A senior military source said this morning that the number of violent events backed by Hamas in the Gaza Strip has recently risen. It seems that large sums of money have been funneled into the Gaza Strip to finance terrorist activities and attacks. As will be remembered, an attempt was made yesterday to assassinate Gaza District Police Commander Yosi Avni. Terrorists fired at his car but, fortunately for him, missed.

This morning, the security forces clamped a curfew on Dayr al- Balah following yesterday's riots. The riots started after an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] detail captured three suspects, armed with automatic weapons, who were hiding in the house of a local notable. As the troops were dispersing the rioters, 16-year-old Bassam 'Awwad was killed and three people were wounded by IDF gunfire. The curfew on the Jabalyah refugee camp, imposed in the wake of recent riots, remains in force. [passage omitted]

Levi Reviews Visit to U.S., Portugal, Nigeria

TA0505105692 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 5 May 92

[Report by Ge'ula Even and Moran Baraq]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] During his visit to the United States, Foreign Minister David Levi was invited to a meeting with Secretary of State James Baker. Levi asserted that the meeting had been good.

[Begin Levi recording] I had the opportunity to raise extremely important issues pertaining to both countries, first of all, in the sphere of U.S.-Israeli relations and the need to improve the atmosphere. We also discussed the establishment of a joint U.S.-Israeli committee to profoundly examine the security and strategic developments and influences in the region. We consider this a very significant accomplishment. [end recording]

During his visit to Europe, the foreign minister met with his Portuguese counterpart, and the two men reached an agreement on the inclusion of European representatives in the peace talks. Minister Levi added that no decision has been made yet regarding those areas in which the EC will participate. He pointed out, however, that the European representatives expressed their satisfaction with the agreement.

At the conclusion of his trip, the foreign minister flew to Nigeria at the invitation of the Nigerian president. Nigeria and Israel resumed diplomatic relations upon Levi's arrival. In addition, it was decided to establish a joint committee to examine the future development of relations between the two countries.

Renewed Ties With Nigeria 'Major Step'

TA0405175592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1700 GMT 4 May 92

[Text] Israel and Nigeria have restored diplomatic relations. Ties were broken by Nigeria after the 1973 Yom Kippur War. Today they were reestablished as Foreign Minister David Levi held talks with Nigerian officials in that country. An Israeli Foreign Ministry announcement in Jerusalem called the restoration of relations a major step in Israel's renewed acceptance in Africa.

Army Shells 'Targets' in South Lebanon

TA0505045592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 5 May 92

[Text] Several katyusha rockets and mortar shells were fired yesterday afternoon at the eastern sector of the security zone in southern Lebanon. Qol Yisra'el's reporter in the north says an Israeli Army outpost was lightly damaged. No soldiers were hurt. In response, the Army shelled targets north of the security zone.

Amnesty Report Says al-Khiyam Inmates Tortured

TA0505063392 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 5 May 92

[Excerpts] Amnesty International charges that prisoners being held in the al-Khiyam prison in Israel's security zone in south Lebanon have been tortured and cut off from the outside world. [passage omitted on Amnesty report]

Official Israeli sources told the Qol Yisra'el reporter that the al-Khiyam prison in south Lebanon is run and managed solely by the South Lebanese Army [SLA], and there is no Israeli staff there. The sources stressed that Israel always tried to encourage decent conditions at the prison, but Israel is not in a position to dictate these conditions.

SLA commanders told the Qol Yisra'el reporter that all the prisoners in the al-Khiyam camp were involved in terrorist actions, and no one was arrested without due cause. In the past, SLA Commander General Lahd has made it clear that when the Red Cross is allowed to visit missing Israeli and SLA soldiers in Lebanon, he will open al-Khiyam prison to the Red Cross.

[A similar report by Menahem Horowitz on Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0500 GMT on 5 May adds that Gen. Lahd said yesterday "that no Lebanese prison affords its inmates such good treatment." SLA sources are cited as saying that "all 90 prisoners released from al-Khiyam last year were in perfect health when they left the establishment."]

King Husayn Confers With Iranian Official

JN0405160592 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 4 May 92

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received at the Royal Hashemite Court this afternoon Ayatollah Taskhiri, adviser to the leader of the Iranian revolution for foreign relations affairs, who conveyed to his majesty the greetings and appreciation of Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. His majesty and the Iranian official exchanged views on the brotherly relations between the two countries. They also discussed developments both in the regional and international areas.

The meeting was attended by the Royal Hashemite Court chief, the minister of awqaf and Islamic affairs and holy places, the delegation accompanying the Iranian official, and the Iranian charge d'affaires in Amman.

King ReceivesPakistani Labor Minister

JN0405160292 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 4 May 92

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received at the Royal Hashemite Court this afternoon Mohammad Ejazul Haq, Pakistani minister of labor, manpower, and overseas Pakistani affairs, who is currently visiting Jordan. During the meeting, they stressed the importance of the brotherly relations between the two countries, as well as the need to promote them in various areas. The meeting was attended by the labor minister and the Pakistani ambassador in Amman.

'Arabiyat, Delegates Return From APU Meeting

JN0505100892 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 4 May 92

[Text] Dr. 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat, speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Jordanian delegation, returned to Amman this evening after representing Jordan at the emergency Arab Parliamentary Union [APU] meeting which concluded in Libya yesterday.

In a statement to the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY, Dr. 'Arabiyat said that the APU meeting was an urgent and special one to discuss the threats directed against fraternal Libya. He noted that the Parliamentary Union had held an urgent meeting earlier this year and adopted general decisions to support and stand by Libya in the face of Western threats.

He said that this recent meeting was a continuation of the previous one, which the ministers had decided to keep open to deal with any sort of embargo against Libya. The embargo, he added, necessitated the holding of this session.

The accompanying delegation included Senator Dr. Sa'id al-Tall and Deputy Dr. 'Abdallah al-'Akayilah.

Delegate Heads to Multilateral Talks Named

JN3004144292 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 30 Apr 92 p 17

[Text] Amman—AL-DUSTUR has learned that the government has decided to form delegations to attend the multilateral negotiations scheduled to begin in a number of world capitals in May. The delegations are as follows:

1. Anis al-Mu'ashshir will head a delegation to the environmental committee which will convene in Tokyo on 18 May.

2. Dr. Mundhir Haddadin will head a delegation to the water committee which will convene in Vienna on 13 May.

3. Dr. 'Abdallah Tuqan will head a delegation to the arms control and regional security committee which is scheduled to meet in Washington on 11 May.

4. Dr. Jawad al-'Anani will head a delegation to the committee dealing with refugees which will open its meetings in Ottawa on 13 May.

5. Dr. Fayiz al-Tarawinah will head a delegation to the economic development committee which will convene in Brussels on 11 May.

Each committee will include numerous experts and technical advisers in various fields.

Reports Note Karami Departure for Damascus

To Meet With Syria's Khaddam

NC0305092192 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 3 May 92

[Text] Prime Minister 'Umar Karami left for Damascus today. He will discuss several domestic issues with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam. Ministers Michel al-Murr and 'Abdallah al- Amin have been in the Syrian capital since 2 May.

Karami 'Did Not Travel' 3 May

NC0305171092 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 3 May 92

[Text] Sources close to Prime Minister 'Umar Karami have told our correspondent in the north that Karami did not travel to Damascus today contrary to reports to that effect.

According to our correspondent, the prime minister attended a luncheon hosted by former Minister 'Abdallah al-Rasi in his home in al-Shaykh Taba. The luncheon was attended by a number of deputies in addition to Minister Muhammad Yusuf Baydun.

Departs 5 May; Resignation Rumored

NC0505113492 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 5 May 92

[Text] Prime Minister 'Umar Karami left for Damascus this morning. Sources at the Government House say that Karami may resign.

Buwayz on 'Negative' Israeli Attitude at Talks

NC0405121892 Beirut AL-ANWAR in Arabic 1 May 92 p 3

[Report on news conference by Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz to unidentified correspondents outside the Lebanese Foreign Ministry in Beirut on 30 April]

[Excerpts] Faris Buwayz, minister of foreign and expatriate affairs, asserted that Lebanon joined the negotiations on the basis of assurances that UN Security Council Resolution 425 will be implemented despite the fact that Lebanese diplomacy was convinced that no results could be achieved before certain international events had come to pass, including the Israeli general election. He questioned the basis on which the bilateral negotiations should be continued when the peace conference has not yet achieved the general principles from which it proceeded.

Asked about the impression he received from the talks held in Washington and Israel's halting of the negotiations on 30 April, he replied: We made a serious effort to ensure the success of the peace talks despite our belief that it might be very difficult to achieve any basic and concrete progress before several international events occur, including the Israeli elections, and perhaps others. We did not, however, expect that Israeli negativeness would be expressed so openly and in a manner that represented a major challenge to international credibility, which is based primarily on justice and the reliability of UN Security Council resolutions.

He added: We backed international legitimacy during the Gulf war. We have supported international legitimacy since the establishment of The Hague court and the United Nations. We have supported this international legitimacy's new vitality, or rather the vitality that it wished to assume. What we are saying today is that the ball is in the court of this international legitimacy following the clear and frank defiance shown by Israel, which emphatically refuses to implement Resolution 425. Hence we expect everyone who asks the Arabs to back the international order, international legitimacy, and international law to express frankly and clearly his response to this negative attitude. We are speaking of a UN Security Council resolution—Resolution 425—which needs no explanation or clarification. We are speaking of an international community that asks us to participate in the multilateral talks and to take part in resolutions issued against Arab countries accused of upsetting the world order. We have the right today to ask this international community to announce a definite stand against these challenges. Either it is unable to do so, in which case we must look for a substitute to this international legitimacy, or it is serious and credible and wishes to impart vitality to its credibility. In this case we are waiting for very clear positions on this issue.

[Correspondent] Do you expect, as a result of Israel's rejection of Resolution 425, that it will carry out a military operation against the south soon?

[Buwayz] I do not want to speculate. I am speaking openly about an Israeli negativeness that frankly defies the foundations of the peace conference and the basics of this international legitimacy. We went to a peace conference based on assurances that UN resolutions would be implemented, including Resolution 425. We joined negotiations based on implementing this resolution. Now we are hearing official, clear, and open talk that totally contradicts all these basics. Now after we have given every chance to this conference to succeed and after giving every opportunity to this international legitimacy, we are asking the cosponsors of the conference, the United States and the Russian Federation, the EC, and the world community in general to voice a clear stand on this issue. On what basis will this conference continue? On what basis will the bilateral talks proceed? How can we be asked to attend the multilateral talks when the bilateral negotiations are making no progress? [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Israel uses resistance activities in the south as an excuse. Does the Lebanese Government intend to seriously deploy the Army and control the situation in the south, at least not to give Israel any more excuses?

[Buwayz] This Israeli talk revolves around the probable results, not the causes. We said that the situation in the south is the result of the Israeli occupation. Let us deal with the basic causes. When we receive a promise and commitment that Israel is withdrawing from Lebanese territory, we will then be committed as a state to keeping the peace and maintaining security on both sides of the border, just like any two neighboring countries.

[Correspondent] Are we to understand from what you are saying that we have been cheated in the negotiations?

[Buwayz] We have not been cheated. Today we warned the cosponsors of the conference, the participating countries, and the countries supporting the conference that this conference has so far not reached the stage of implementation or embarking on the basic principles from which it originally proceeded. We said that the Israeli statements issued two days ago regarding Resolution 425 are very worrying. They are a basic and essential challenge to the principles of this conference. Those who called for the conference must make the necessary arrangements and take the appropriate stands.

[Correspondent] Do you believe that linking the Lebanese stand to the Syrian stand has reflected negatively on Lebanon, the evidence for which is the fact that negotiations with the Palestinians have improved?

[Buwayz] One issue has absolutely nothing to do with the other. First, I do not have the feeling that the discussions with the Palestinian side have made any serious progress so far. We all know that Palestinian representation remains a problem. When representation is a problem, I do not see how the content of the negotiations could be any better. As for the subject of coordination or Arab solidarity, I wish to stress that no one should delude themselves into believing that it is in Lebanon's interest to deal with Israel individually, and that a part of the Lebanese problem is linked to the general Arab-Israeli conflict. We have some previous experience in how to deal with the Israelis. When during the 17 May agreement the Israelis reached agreement with the authorities, they linked these agreements to conditions that introduced other parties into the conflict. Therefore, I believe that all those who believe Lebanon can handle this issue individually are grossly mistaken. [passage omitted]

Commander Ja'ja' Urges Government To Resign

NC0305075892 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 3 May 92

[Excerpt] Lebanese Forces Commander Dr. Samir Ja'ja' said that the situation needs remedies at all levels and that the basic remedy lies with the political authority. He added that as long as this government stays, there is no scope for any possible political or economic improvement.

He added that the authority has become a dead weight and the political doors are closed. He ruled out any political or economic improvement under Prime Minister 'Umar Karami's government, adding that Karami can best serve his homeland by leaving. He said that officials' attempts to remain in their posts as long as possible is causing more damage to the country, not only for the general public but for every citizen. He said: Let them have the courage to resign and go back home. Could any minister with an ounce of self- respect agree to stay in such a government?

In an interview with AL-ANWAR published today, Dr. Ja'ja' accused the government of bad management. He said that it spends more than it levies and he expects the budget deficit to reach astronomical figures. Noting that printing currency is not a solution, he urges controlling expenditures. He expressed surprise that 1,000 security men are at the service of the president, the prime minister, and the speaker of the Chamber of Deputies at a monthly cost of a million dollars.

Regarding parliamentary elections, Dr. Ja'ja' said: We absolutely support holding elections but under certain conditions, such as solving the issue of displaced persons, securing the Syrian forces' withdrawal to al-Biqa', and changing this government. [passage omitted]

Tyre Protesters Storm Finance Minister's Home

NC0505100192 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 5 May 92

[Text] Sidon merchants closed their shops and called on politicians to control the situation following the rising exchange rate of the dollar.

Demonstrators in al-Nabatiyah protested the economic situation and a merchants association held a meeting to discuss the situation. The merchants denounced the worsening economic situation and called for an improvement in living conditions.

In Zahlah, citizens demonstrated in the streets, chanting ant - government slogans. The demonstrators went to the home of President al-Hirawi, where they protested the deteriorating conditions.

The Trade Union Federation has called a general strike for Tuesday, 12 May, to protest the conditions. General Labor Federation Chief Antoine Bisharah called for an emergency meeting at 1000 today at federation port headquarters to discuss the economic crisis.

Our correspondent in the south reported a short time ago that citizens blocked the Sidon-Tyre highway by burning tires at the Siniq-al-Ghaziyah junction. Shops in Sidon are still closed and no activity has been reported in the commercial markets.

Our correspondent in al-Nabatiyah reports that the citizens there cut off all roads leading to the city and local roads in the province and burned tires to denounce the high cost of living as the dollar rate reached unprecedented levels.

[(Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic at 0845 GMT on 5 May carries a similar report on the demonstrations in the south, which adds that demonstrators in Tyre stormed Finance Minister 'Ali al- Khalil's home there. The report adds: "The demonstrators entered the house, broke the doors, shattered windows, and destroyed and burned pieces of furniture."]

Fadlallah on Hizballah, Resistance, Elections

NC0305100292 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0635 GMT 2 May 92

[Interview with 'Allamah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah by anchorwoman Wardah on the "Saturday Salon" program; place, date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Wardah] Your Eminence 'Allamah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah. Who are you, and can you give us a brief autobiography beginning with your birth up to the present?

[Fadlallah] I am a very simple man. I lived a simple and natural childhood in an atmosphere that was not very comfortable. I was born to a poor and deprived family in a country that was not the source of my family roots. I was born in Holy al-Najaf in Iraq. I lived a simple life, looking around myself and storing various feelings and sentiments. I built my experience, which at first was little and then increased with time. I discovered many things during this period which made me realize my responsibility for my abilities, which I worked to develop in order to enrich my life. Therefore my studies, which were supposed to be traditional, rebelled against tradition and all familiar things but did not depart from the norm.

In Iraq I studied science and literature and wrote poetry in its widest variations and according to the most modern methods and thoughts. I also started writing, trying to express contemporary and serious ideas. In Iraq I was involved in the dynamism of the Islamic movement in many areas. I gained journalism experience when I wrote the second editorial in an Islamic magazine called AL-ADWA' [Lights]. I experienced the entire political situation according to the political developments in Iraq in the royalist area and then in the changeable and volatile republican era when it was influenced by the international game. At that time I realized the meaning of the international game and saw the backdrop to many shining slogans which attracted the people to the widest horizons. Many officials who were responsible for tragedies tried to make these slogans mere dreams in order to discourage the people. I learned from this changing situation and the international and regional developments. I learned that the slogans are not the cause, but that the cause is reality. I learned to be pragmatic and not to drown in illusions. I learned that in our modern age, we do not monopolize a local arena separated from a regional or international arena. Therefore, I began to speak about the arena and the reality.

When I came to Lebanon, I lived in a poor area called al-Nab'ah [a Shiite enclave in predominantly Christian East Beirut]. I became acquainted with the sectarian and social diversity there. I saw how misery united the Lebanese. There I did not find deprived Maronites different from deprived Shiites or deprived Shiites different from deprived Sunnis or Armenians. From my experience in the Eastern area where I lived, in the Western area, in the south, and in al-Biqa' during my tours, I found that there was a class system in Lebanon. There was a class comprising all communities and religions which lived in decadent and criminal luxury. There was another class representing all communities and religions which lived in hunger, deprivation, loss, and pain. [passage omitted]

Many people imagined that I called for fanaticism when I preached Islam. But I preached openness because the problem here in Lebanon and the entire East is that they released the word Islam and confined it to a can, and the word Christianity and canned it, too. They allowed no one to examine carefully what was inside the cans. What is important is to carry these cans. Maybe the cans will bring some votes. But I wanted to open the cans. This is because if we open the cans, we will find that Christians and Muslims, when they interact on the personal and moral levels and in terms of their aspirations, will discover that Islam and Christianity agree with each other 80 percent.

There remains the question of theology. Perhaps this question separates us. Perhaps we will discover that theology has been a bone of contention between the Christians themselves and between the Christians and Muslims. There are several schools of Christian theology. There are also several schools of Islamic theology. Therefore, we in Lebanon might discuss theology philosophically, but we observe in practice the Islamic and Christian ideals, ideals which agree in many respects.

[passage omitted] [Wardah] Mr. 'Allamah, and allow me to add, the humane 'Allamah; this is an addition to my first question. Some national and foreign media describe you as Hizballah's spiritual guide. Others call you the real guide of the al-Da'wah Party and of some Islamic student movements that have branched off from it. What is your actual position in these Islamic movements and organizations?

[Fadlallah] I am all of these and none of them at the same time. I am all of them in the sense of the Islam that is open to the whole world. I support every human being who follows a course in his life, in particular the course of Islam which I believe in, the Islam that knows no sects, a humanitarian Islam that opens up to all messages. Therefore, when the word Hizballah was used—I have read this word in the Koran—God spoke about God's party [Hizb Allah] which believes in Him, is loyal to Him, and takes actions in life proceeding from this large-scale belief. I believe that the word Hizballah applies to all true believers who open their hearts to God in the open air and under the sun which spreads its light everywhere.

[Wardah] We are all Hizballah members.

[Fadlallah] On this basis, I believe in Hizballah within this exuberant atmosphere. I have never been an official, in any responsible capacity, since Hizballah was established as an organized party. I have never been responsible for the al-Da'wah Party since it was established as an organized party. I have never been responsible for every educational body within their scope. I was responsible for all of these. When I proceed along my life, I guide all the people with what education I have. I express my opinion and listen to everyone else's. Therefore, I support the world Islamic movement. I believe I have an intellectual position at least. I stand alongside all oppressed people and all those who carry messages in the world. I support the Christian men of religion who are struggling [yujahidun] against the colonial powers in Latin America, who lead their daily lives with the oppressed and experience their situation. I do not support the Muslim men of religion who live in the palaces of kings, princes, and tyrants and who issue Islamic rulings every day depending on the policies of that day.

Therefore, the spiritual guide of Hizballah in the organizational sense is a title given me by Western media when they could not find any officials known by name within Hizballah. Therefore, they used to come to the Imam Rida Mosque in Bi'r al-'Abid and experience the massive popular atmosphere and hear all the stances. They used to wonder which man pulled the strings of this movement. My name would then come up. I am honored to be behind this Islamic movement which is open to confronting global arrogance, Zionism, and internal oppression. But I believe that I have participated effectively in guiding this generation for more than 25 years, and I have done so with an open mind. I admit that I am open to the whole Islamic movement in Lebanon and the world and I support it, but I am not an organizational member of any party or movement. [passage omitted]

[Wardah] 'Allamah, you said you back Muslim movements in the world. We need to ask you specifically: What is your relationship with and position on all the Islamic movements and fundamentalist organizations in the Islamic world?

[Fadlallah] When I said that I am open to and interact with all Islamic movements, I meant that I remain open to true Islamic action, the goal of which is to move Islam from its traditional state to one of action that embraces the realities of man and life. This, however, does not mean that I agree with all Islamic movements' methods, concepts, and other issues. I back the overall aspiration for activating Islam in the world, but this does not prevent me from directing some criticism or comments here and there regarding some methods or developments.

[Wardah] Can you give us an example?

[Fadlallah] At some point I was discussing some of the methods used by Algeria's Islamic Salvation Front, particularly during the aftermath that followed the political speech they made after winning the first round of elections. I believed then that their methods were not constructive or wise. There are some Islamic movements trying to present the world with trivial points of Islamic law, such as discussing whether to wear the veil, music, etc. They do not concentrate on general political issues, such as economic and social affairs. Even though we might believe these notions have some scope for discussion or thought, the Islamic movement must confront the larger problems first and then discuss minor issues at a second, third, or fourth stage.

Although we used to disagree over some expressions regarding action—political or other Islamic action—I believe there are common denominators among all Islamists. These are: working to restore Islam to everyday life and not confine it to places of worship and mosques. In exactly the same way, we also support all those working for freedom in the world, but we differ with them on the broad lines of this freedom, its expression, methods, and so on.

[Wardah] 'Allamah Fadlallah, what is your relationship with the Higher Islamic Shiite Council and how do you evaluate in general the role and performance of the Islamic religious councils in Lebanon?

[Fadlallah] My relationship with the Higher Islamic Shiite Council since its inception has been positive. It has been based on respect for the council's chairmen, be they al-Sayyid Musa al-Sadr or Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams-al-Din, who were my colleagues during my studies in the Holy al-Najaf. I established relations of friendship with the two men according to the periods I lived with them. Before the inception of the council, I was one of those who worked to find a consensus among the various Shiite scholars regarding the issue of the council. The differences were many before the inception of the council. Brother Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams-al-Din and I worked to mediate between al-Sayyid Musa al-Sadr and the others who differed with him. From the beginning and while undertaking the mediation, however, I said I would not elect and would nominate myself to be elected. This was not because I had conflicts with the council or its members. If I had conflicts, I would not have sought to cement the cracks in the council. My philosophy of religious, political, and cultural activity, however, is different from the formula of religious councils. [passage omitted]

[Wardah] Islam is a system. If Islamic parties reach power, as some Islamic personalities and movements are calling for, will they implement the Islamic system? Does 'Allamah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah support these parties and personalities in calling for an Islamic government in Lebanon?

[Fadlallah] It is natural for each party, which has an ideology, course, and program, to work to implement its ideology and program. But the question concerns the ways and means to implement this. We believe that violence is not the course through which any ideology

can impose its ideology and any party its line. Lebanon is the best example of this. Therefore, it is natural for those who believe in Islam as an ideology, course, and doctrine to think that Islam should act when all and most of the people believe in it. Islam is not an exception in this case. All doctrines act in this way.

As for Lebanon, in view of its reality and diversity and in view of the objective regional and international conditions which make Lebanon an iron-clad formula in the region and not just a system, I do not perceive a chance in the near future that Lebanon will become an Islamic republic, not because the Christians do not agree with it, but because some of the Muslims who think differently from the Islamists also do not agree with this.

[passage omitted] [Wardah] We must move on to discuss the political situation. Hizballah and some Islamic movements vehemently opposed the al-Ta'if agreement. Where does 'Allamah Fadlallah stand today on this agreement in practice, performance, and implementation?

[Fadlallah] When we were studying the birth of the al-Ta'if agreement, when it was still in the womb, we felt that the countries sponsoring the agreement visited Washington often. We felt that the al-Ta'if agreement was an American project which needed an Arab headdress and Lebanese fez. The Lebanese were being told then that their future in Lebanon, when Lebanon wanted to take a break from its crises, lay in the al-Ta'if agreement. They told us: You do not have the right to divert from the al-Ta'if agreement—that is, from the sectarian system—even when the al-Ta'if agreement addresses abolishing political sectarianism. Al-Ta'if addressed political sectarianism as though it was merely a motion in a dream. Because the council voting on abolishing political sectarianism is itself sectarian in nature, it cannot approve abolishing sectarianism. It is also very easy to create a thousand and one complications through the various separate Lebanese problems to hamper ending political sectarianism.

Therefore, the al-Ta'if agreement is the last plan for Lebanon. In other words, it tells the Lebanese not to contemplate a federation. They should not even dream of civilian pluralism which could then be transformed into pluralism in officialdom. The Lebanese should balance their situation out on the sectarian level to establish fairness between the Christians and Muslims, in addition to all the things that change the decor without touching the essence. But I believe that the whole movement behind the al- Ta'if agreement, which was meant to give the impression that there are in-depth and accurate discussions between the representatives of the Lebanese people to issue an agreement after much deliberation, was mere theatrics. The discussions were meant to give the impression of a great victory, but I believe the agreement was shelved in the corridors of those who created it.

As far as we see it, the al-Ta'if agreement is merely an agreement that canceled the war, which is its only positive achievement. As for the other issues, I believe that the international game behind the al-Ta'if agreement does not allow this agreement to delve into the depths of the problem. What is being demanded now is to deal with the problem superficially: abolishing militias is being done superficially; the makeup of this government is also superficial. Therefore, the al-Ta'if agreement in Lebanon means that there should be no war between the Lebanese and that the sectarian system should continue for a while. Implementation of the al-Ta'if agreement undoubtedly is at the end of a long tunnel. We are still in the economic, political, and security tunnel of the region.

[Wardah] You said that the al-Ta'if meetings were mere theatrics, that the deliberations were difficult, but that that was only part of the play. Did the Lebanese who attended the al-Ta'if meeting know that they were performing roles?

[Fadlallah] Perhaps. I did not ask them to find out. Perhaps in some cases, the play suggests to the actor what he should say through the general atmosphere. It is not necessary for things to constantly take place through indoctrination. The general atmosphere at the meeting was theatrical. [passage omitted]

[Wardah] You are one of the few who believe that changing the current Lebanese Government is of no use so long as the concepts and the political course it follows are not changed. What do you suggest, and how are the concepts and bases flawed?

[Fadlallah] [passage omitted] When I said that government change is useless, it was because the nature of any future government, as a result of complicated internal and external Lebanese circumstances, dictates that only some members of the current government will be removed and that the majority will continue in it. Perhaps one official will be exchanged for someone similar, or for one even less qualified. Therefore, I said that the problem is that Lebanese political circles do not think about the Lebanon of the younger generation, their aspirations and future. This is why the problem will continue, because performance moves according to the current mentality of the government, and because regional and international events are acting to make Lebanon start a starvation war after exhausting the war of the cannon. We are currently experiencing new conflict that differs from the previous one in that previously, the Lebanese experienced national unity in death and displacement. Now we are experiencing national unity in starvation.

[Wardah] What do you say to those advocating a government change to find a solution to our economic crisis?

[Fadlallah] I wish to ask them: Has the economic crisis evolved from this government or from a wider cause? Has the economic crisis resulted from a government that

rules or from one that does not rule? Will the next government have the keys to resolving the crisis and will it be able to govern?

I tell them: Do not think of names because they are irrelevant, but think of how deep the crisis is, its ramifications abroad, and the plan by which Lebanon is to be run. [passage omitted]

[Wardah] In a statement a few days ago, after calling for an economic state of emergency and asking the ministers who refrain from attending cabinet meetings to attend or resign, you asked: Why is the economic crisis harsher in peacetime than in war? Your Eminence, we ask why and what practical suggestion you have?

[Fadlallah] The forces abroad are seeking to distract the Lebanese people until their major goals in the region are achieved. The war has suited the region's circumstances. When the war was no longer in line with the new situation in the region and in the world and it exhausted all its goals and became futile even in terms of the slogans in the arena, the decision was to look for other amusement for the Lebanese so that they would not contemplate the major issues and solutions for Lebanon that do not consider the views of the Lebanese people.

The simple Lebanese individual's slogan was: Let us get it over with. Do whatever you like, but rid us of the war. I imagine the Lebanese people will end up saying: Rid us of the dollar and do whatever you want.

What is required is to discipline the Lebanese. The Lebanese are the only ones who move about and speak freely, making trouble in more than one place.

O troublemaking Lebanese, all the people who are annoyed by the trouble you are causing say to you that you have to die, be displaced, and starve until you become disciplined again and do not disturb any political situation or any political personality inside the country, because the public prosecution is ready to penalize you in accordance with the ethics law al-Sadat introduced in Egypt. [passage omitted]

[Wardah] [passage omitted] What does 'Allamah Fadlallah say about the elections, constituencies, and conditions of holding and participating in the elections? Are the efforts serious or are they designed to distract us from our actual problems?

[Fadlallah] I believe that those who speak about elections are in fact speaking about their own problems and whether elections can solve or complicate these problems. [passage omitted] If we want to speak about the impediments to elections, we must wait until the Middle East problem is solved. Why? Because when we talk about the Israeli occupation, naturally, Israel will not withdraw until the Middle East crisis is resolved. When speaking about the Syrian presence and the talk by some that after September... [sentence incomplete as heard] If circumstances permit, the Syrians will withdraw to al-Biqa'. [passage omitted] If the elections are to be free of any pressure or a negative, worrying situation in Lebanon, we should wait until after 1994. [passage omitted]

[Wardah] Your Eminence, you have been opposed to the mechanism of the Arab-Israeli peace talks and the way they began. What is your view of and position on the negotiations and the U.S. role in them?

[Fadlallah] There is a difference between being convinced of negotiations and accepting something resembling negotiations—on the basis of surrender to a fait accompli. Thus people understand realism. A person might accept this on the grounds that he has no other choice. From the beginning we have not believed in the human aspect of the legitimacy of the state of Israel. Muslims, Christians, and some Jews coexisted in Palestine, as was the case in other countries. [passage omitted] If we are to speak about human rights, we should call for the return of Palestinians to Palestine, to their land. [passage omitted]

We believe that it is very difficult, at least at present or perhaps in the near future, to be able to stand in the face of the U.S. plan, but we believe that more than one opportunity exists to disrupt part of this plan or to discover some loopholes in it. We want to tell everyone: If the regimes must make peace, the people should not make peace, should not purchase Israeli merchandise, should not receive any Israeli tourist, and should not give Israel the feeling of stability. The question is one of struggle for existence with what we perceive as the Jewish octopus, which is linked to more than one arrogant global octopus. Therefore, it is not a political matter in which we discuss borders and some other details, it is a matter concerning a whole future. [passage omitted]

[Wardah] What do you have to say about the Arab-Israeli talks?

[Fadlallah] I believe the talks are moving at a snail's pace in order to condition the Arab mentality to accept Israel through this continuous dialogue. They have talked and met so that Israel will become accepted. This is the meaning of the U.S. President's statement that his greatest achievement was to gather the Arabs and Israel together. A solution is far away. This phase is one of normalization through negotiations.

[Wardah] Your Eminence Fadlallah, you call for resistance in the south. Can Lebanon alone resist and liberate the south? Who will help Lebanon and the people of the south in their daily steadfastness while all the Arabs and almost all the world are at negotiating tables?

[Fadlallah] When we speak about the people's desire for freedom, we should not turn and see who will help us in the question of freedom. If every country that wanted to be liberated thought this way the first man who shouted the cry of freedom would not have been able to rally people behind him. Freedom means the will of a free life. When we want to live and rebel against difficulties, it means we want to continue to live with the difficulties. For Israel to continue to occupy a part of Lebanon

without a bullet being fired, without a voice being raised, and without any confrontation would mean that man in Lebanon had died. It would mean we had turned into persons begging for bread from the invaders. The question of resistance is related to man's feeling of freedom. I resist, therefore, I live freely. If I am afraid, if I run, if am defeatist, or if I seek excuses for myself, it means I am dying. We resist because we want to continue to live. I believe all people who resist do not think of results in terms of one plus one equals two but on the basis of creating a new person who attracts another person and so forth so that the issue of freedom will continue.

We believe that the Lebanese resistance against Israel has created an atmosphere in the Arab and Islamic world that gives a continuous sense of Israeli injustice and the Palestinian cause. Perhaps the Lebanese resistance has not attracted fighters from all parts of the world. We know that many are asking to fight on the side of the Lebanese, but complicated conditions do not allow it. The resistance has created an atmosphere. It has debunked a big illusion, namely that the Israeli soldier is invincible and that the Israeli tank cannot be confronted. [passage omitted]

When a few of us defeat the Israelis in one incident, it means that if we develop our capabilities further we can defeat Israel. It means that Israel can be defeated. Whoever defeats 10, can defeat 100 later, and then 1,000, and so forth. Through resistance we provide political and security reality about the possibility of defeating Israel in the future. [passage omitted]

[Wardah] There is information that you recently took additional security measures because you are a target of an Israeli security or military operation. Why you personally, and do you expect an Israeli military operation? How, where, and when, according to your estimation?

[Fadlallah] I have taken security measures. I do not think that the people who used to come to me would feel that anything has changed. I am an Israeli and a U.S. target. We know that the Bi'r al-'Abd bombing was a U.S. operation. We used to analyze matters but William Casey's memoirs disclosed the role of U.S., Arab, and Lebanese intelligence in this bombing.

It is natural that Israel and the United States are not comfortable with a person who does not disappear due to changing circumstances and who is not afraid of the new world order. I am not a superman but I believe in my opinion and mission and I support the nation; I am honored to serve it and speak about its aspirations. [passage omitted]

I have survived several assassination attempts but this has not sown fear in me. I continue my work and to pursue the line in which I believe. I continue to serve the nation. I know how much this costs me. I am aware of the challenges facing me. [passage omitted] I believe that anyone who adopts such a stand does not consider martyrdom a problem but a dream. This does not mean we must not take precautions. We are not afraid, we are cautious. Caution is a sign of strength, not weakness.

[Wardah] Do you expect an Israeli military operation?

[Fadlallah] Whoever understands Israel expects the utmost savageness from it. The country that killed the child and wife of Sayyid 'Abbas al-Musawi, knowing that they were in the car with him, and killed the children of Palestine and Lebanon can do anything. It is no problem for us to confront the murderers of children and women—those who murder all people with their racism. God says: God hath purchased of the believers their persons and their goods, for theirs in return is the garden of paradise: They fight in His cause and slay and are slain: A promise binding on Him, in truth, through the law, the Gospel, and the Koran. [Koranic verse] We are pursuing this path.

[Wardah] Your relationship with Syria has passed through various phases. What is your current assessment of this relationship? Do you expect a full Syrian withdrawal from Greater Beirut, particularly the southern suburb, soon?

[Fadlallah] My relationship with Syria is still positive within certain bounds because, in my political meetings, I do not tackle all the issues that the Lebanese usually tackle. There are common strategic lines with Syria. As to the withdrawal, I believe that this issue continues to be fraught with numerous complications because it is not an issue that has a clear-cut definition so that we might cite the al-Ta'if agreement's provisions about it. It is an issue of fact. We know that Lebanese reality is open to various possibilities.

[Wardah] To move to another issue—the Christian-Islamic relationship. Your Eminence Sayyid Fadlallah, you have stated that international policy schemes prevent the necessary inter-Lebanese dialogue. What is this international policy, who stands behind it, and why does it oppose dialogue?

[Fadlallah] When I speak of dialogue, I mean a dialogue that would produce realistic results suitable for Lebanon and the future of the Lebanese. Naturally, those who sowed the sedition in Lebanon, notably the United States and Israel—and Europe as well when it had a major role in the East—insist on keeping the Muslim's sense of his Islamism off bounds to the Christian and the Christian's sense of his Christianity off bounds to the Muslim. Eliminating some of the barriers signifies the elimination of other barriers. They do not want this. Hence, I imagine that the Americans do not want Lebanese national unity, pan-Arab unity, Islamic unity, or Christian unity. [passage omitted]

[Wardah] To move to the second-to-last question. Lebanon has suffered as a result of hostagetaking in Lebanon. Were you one of its supporters and why?

[Fadlallah] I was not among those who supported it for one moment. But I used to speak out in some cases when

there was an attempt to hold the Lebanese or all the people responsible. I used to say: Do not look at one side of the picture but all sides. Do not look at how someone was kidnapped, but why he was kidnapped. I used to try to convey my absolute rejection of kidnapping as a political or propaganda method despite the fact that the burden of this act was laid on my shoulders. I used to speak on the issue in some cases because I did not want Westerners to shackle our values and to preach spiritual values and human rights to us. I wanted to show them the other side of the real picture of human rights, if indeed they were speaking about human rights. I used to speak to them on the rights of the Lebanese people who were collectively held hostage by U.S. sedition. I wanted to speak to them of the Palestinians who were collectively kidnapped from their land. I wanted to speak to them about all oppressed persons to tell them that if the kidnapping of an innocent person raises such an uproar in the world, why was holding an entire nation hostage not a problem for the world's conscience?

[Wardah] Did this achieve the desired results?

[Fadlallah] The results were not what I wanted because the West has no conscience where the Third World is concerned, be it Christian or Islamic. We were trying not to be influenced by the Western media that were trying to hold the oppressed responsible for all crimes while portraying Westerners as idealist, democratic, and free. We were trying to tell them: If what some of our people do is a crime, then your crime is greater. [passage omitted]

[Wardah] This is the last question. When will we see a happy ending to the case of the two German hostage, O Eminent Sayyid?

[Fadlallah] This is a personal matter, so ask Germany how and with whom it talks. I do not know everything that is going on there. I hope that this case will be totally closed with regard to the non-Lebanese and the Lebanese.

[Wardah] Do you expect a happy ending soon to this particular Lebanese-German case?

[Fadlallah] In my view, such cases do not take very long.

[Wardah] Would you address a concluding statement via the Voice of Lebanon?

[Fadlallah] Proceeding from my sense of apostolic responsibility [al-mas'uliyah al-risaliyah] that is open to God, the apostles, and all the scriptures revealed by God—the Torah, the Gospel, and the Koran—I would like to tell all the Lebanese people: Do not believe anyone who tells you that the war in Lebanon was an Islamic-Christian war. Some politicians raised this issue. I know, however, that ordinary Christians and Muslims in Lebanon do not stray far from the concept of unity. I have experienced this sense of unity in al-Nab'ah in the eastern areas, Bint Jubayl, and other areas. Do not believe this big lie. O Lebanese, do not believe the other lie, namely that the Lebanese are afraid of each other. All of us are afraid of Israel and the U.S. plan that seeks to preempt all our resources. We are now living through the second crisis that the United States has created in Lebanon. Seek the means of equality among you. Seek your humanity that is open to Christian and Islamic values alike. Safeguard freedom of thought and expression in Lebanon, even if it is expressed in cruel words. It is this that makes us talk, seek to understand each other, and achieve definite results. Do not dwell too much on the local political game. Do not look in corners for that which complicates things for you. Do not indulge in all the empty talk that comes from the Lebanese political situation. [passage omitted]

Lahd Denies Amnesty Report on al-Khiyam Prison

NC0505090092 (Clandestine) Voice of the South in Arabic to Lebanon 0730 GMT 5 May 92

[Text] Amnesty International reports that about 200 detainees in the al-Khiyam prison have been tortured by Israeli officials trying to get information out of them. In addition, the detained cannot contact their families or organizations, such as the International Red Cross [ICRC]. The report noted that children between the ages of 12 and 14 are being detained in the prison.

Our military correspondent spoke with South Lebanese Army [SLA] Commander General Antoine Lahd, who said that there is no truth whatsoever to the report that prisoners have been tortured and beaten. He added that no Israelis work in the prison and that conditions at al-Khiyam are much better than those in Lebanese prisons. Gen. Lahd categorically denied that children are being detained and said that no more than 13 women are being held, including Suha Bisharah, who tried to assassinate him.

Regarding the conditions in which the prisoners live, Lahd said: They enjoy all the medical services enjoyed by SLA soldiers, and they eat the same food as the soldiers. He said that the circumstances under which they were detained were not arbitrary, as they claim after release. The vast majority of the prisoners were detained for participating in terrorist or sabotage operations.

Lahd said that he has stopped releasing detainees because his goodwill gestures were not reciprocated. He is willing to allow ICRC representatives inspect the prison and check the conditions if the other sides allow similar visits to our detained soldiers there.

Gen. Lahd noted that Amnesty International did not contact him before preparing and publishing its report.

Israelis Resume Shelling Southern Villages

NC0405090592 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 4 May 92

[Text] Our correspondent in the south has reported that Israeli shelling of some regions in Iqlim al-Tuffah was renewed at 1000 today. Shells fell on the eastern part of Jarju' and the outskirts of the townships of 'Ayn Bu

Siwar, Jba', and Mlita. The Lebanese Army blocked off the road leading to Iqlim al-Tuffah and prevented cars from passing through.

Our correspondent pointed out that the township is virtually empty of residents.

Our correspondent in al-Nabatiyah reported that Jabal al-Rayhan came under artillery fire at about 0900 today from the Israeli and South Lebanese Army [SLA] positions located on Tallat al-Kassarah.

In another development in the south, an explosive device went off at around 0930 today on a road leading to an SLA position known as Shaqif al-Nahl in the western sector of the strip. Our correspondent reported that the explosion took place when an SLA patrol was passing by, but did not injure anyone. Right after the explosion, the SLA combed the surrounding areas.

Lahd on 'Harmful Consequences' of Hizballah Fire

NC0405150292 (Clandestine) Voice of the South in Arabic to Lebanon 1330 GMT 4 May 92

[Text] Because of Hizballah's shelling of the border area, Major General Antoine Lahd, commander of the South Lebanese Army [SLA], has told our military correspondent that this action is not in anyone's interest and its continuation inevitably will lead to harmful consequences. He hoped this action will cease.

Our military correspondent adds that the shelling is directed at the positions and villages of al-Rayhan, Sujud, (al-Ghuzlan), and al-'Ayshiyah and that the SLA is returning fire with artillery.

German Hostages To Be Released 'Very Soon'

NC0505083992 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 4 May 92 p 7

[Text] The two German hostages in Lebanon will be released unconditionally very soon. Positive developments will also happen that will satisfy the Hammadi family.

Afghanistan

Mojaddedi Appoints Acting Ministers

LD0505092992 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 0830 GMT 5 May 92

[Text] To carry out and speed up the affairs of state, to satisfy the immediate demands of our compatriots, and to seriously attend to the affairs of ministries and state establishments in the sensitive and historic period through which our country is living, Esteemed Professor Hazrat Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, chairman of the Jehadi Council and the embodiment of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, after consultations with the Jehadi Council, has made the following appointments:

1. Esteemed General Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, minister of defense of the Islamic State of Afghanistan;
2. Esteemed General Nawroz, acting minister of national security;
3. Esteemed Yaser, acting minister at the Ministry of Construction Affairs;
4. Esteemed Dr. Faruq, acting minister at the Ministry of Water and Power;
5. Esteemed Seyyed Soleyman Gaylani, acting minister of foreign affairs;
6. Esteemed Dr. Musa Tawana, acting minister of higher education;
7. Esteemed Eng. Ahmad Shah, acting minister at the Ministry of Home Affairs;
8. Esteemed Commander Anwar, acting minister at the Ministry of Observation of Martyrs and Disabled;
9. Esteemed 'Abdol Ahad Khan Karzay, acting minister at the Ministry of Border Affairs;
10. Esteemed Zabehollah Hadi, acting minister at the Ministry of Rural Construction and Development;
11. Esteemed Eng. Mohammad Akram, acting minister at the Ministry of Communication;
12. Esteemed Mowlawi Arsala, acting minister at the Ministry of Islamic Affairs and Endowment;
13. Esteemed Lieutenant General Hamidollah Rahimi, acting minister of finance.
14. Esteemed Mowlawi Jalaloddin Haqani, acting minister of justice.
15. Esteemed Haji 'Abdol Hafez Beg, acting minister at the Ministry of City Construction.
16. Esteemed Commander Rahmatollah Khan Wahedyar, acting minister at the Ministry of Returnee Affairs;
17. Esteemed Haji Soleyman, acting minister at the Ministry of Foodstuffs and Light Industries;
18. Esteemed Dr. Najibollah Mojaddedi, acting minister at the Public Health Ministry;
19. Esteemed Mowlawi 'Abdol Manan, acting minister at the Ministry of Social Affairs;
20. Esteemed Wakil Shahbaz, acting minister at the Ministry of Commerce;
21. Esteemed Mowlawi 'Abdollah, acting head of the Supreme Court of the Islamic State of Afghanistan;
22. Esteemed Mowlawi Mohammad Qasem, acting head of the Supreme Prosecution Office;
23. Esteemed Mowlawi Mohammad Mir, minister counsellor for the Islamic State of Afghanistan;
24. Esteemed Commander Mohammad Musa, acting governor of Kabul Province;
25. Esteemed Fazl Karim, acting mayor of Kabul city;
26. Esteemed Commander 'Abdol Haq, acting commander of the police and gendarmerie;
27. Esteemed Dr. Zabehollah Mojaddedi, acting deputy minister at the Ministry of Higher Education;
28. Esteemed Golboddin, acting deputy minister of finance;
29. Esteemed Hamed Karzay, acting deputy minister at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
30. Esteemed Lieutenant General Rahim Wardag, acting chief of the General Staff at the Ministry of Defense;
31. Esteemed Dr. Jalil Shams, acting deputy minister at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
32. Esteemed Mowlawi Sedeqollah, acting deputy minister at the Ministry of Islamic Affairs and Endowment;
33. Esteemed Mowlawi Wala Jan Wasiq, acting deputy minister at the Ministry of Information and Culture;
34. Esteemed Haji Mohammad Naim Khan Kochi, acting deputy minister at the Ministry of Borders Affairs;
35. Esteemed Commander Didar, acting head of the traffic department; and
36. Esteemed Seyyed Eshaq Gaylani, acting head of the foodstuff department.

Mojaddedi Will Stay 'If The Country Needs Me'

BK0505103892 Hong Kong AFP in English 1021 GMT 5 May 92

[Text] Kabul, May 5 (AFP)—Afghan interim president Sebgatollah Mojaddedi said Tuesday people were "insisting that he stay in office for two years until elections can be held.

Speaking at an impromptu press conference here, the 70-year-old mojahedin leader said delegations from various provinces had told him he was the only figure who could bridge ethnic and regional divisions in the country.

"If the country needs me, if there is no solution but me—I will accept," he said as barrages of rockets from a rival mojahedin leader crashed in the vicinity of the palace.

Mojaddedi called radical fundamentalist Goldboddin Hekmatyar "an outlaw", and said he should face punishment for his attacks on Kabul, "because all other groups, the people, agree (with the government), and he is only a small group."

The interim president, who came to Kabul on the assumption that he would hold power for two months, said the original plan had been "drawn up in haste."

He also indicated that the interim council over which he presides might consider including former president Najibollah in a general amnesty.

"I hope he can be included," he said, "but it depends on the discussions of other parties and the people."

Mojaddedi, Sevan Discuss UN Reconstruction Aid

LD0405155192 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 4 May 92

[Text] Esteemed Professor Hazrat Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, chairman of the Jehadi Council and embodiment of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, this morning received His Excellency Benon Sevan, deputy and special envoy of the United Nations secretary general, At Gol Khana Palace.

A BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY correspondent reports that during the meeting, Esteemed Professor Hazrat Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, chairman of the Jehadi Council and embodiment of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, briefed Benon Sevan on the current situation in the country and spoke about the role of the United Nations in attracting international assistance for the return of refugees and the reconstruction of Afghanistan.

Benon Sevan offered congratulations on the establishment of an Islamic state in Afghanistan and pledged to Esteemed Professor Hazrat Sebghatollah Mojaddedi that the United Nations is ready to render assistance toward the return of refugees and the reconstruction of Afghanistan and to attract immediate assistance of the international community.

At the end of the meeting, in an interview with a number of the journalists, Sevan said that from now on the sufferings of the people of Afghanistan should not be increased. The time has come for all Afghans, whatever group or formation they might belong to, to get together and participate in stabilizing the situation.

Mojaddedi Interviewed on Future, Opposition

NC0105205592 London MBC Television in Arabic 1905 GMT 1 May 92

[Interview with Sebghatollah Mojaddedi by MBC correspondent Nasir Farghali in Kabul; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Farghali] President Mojaddedi, I would like first to convey congratulations to you and to the Afghan people and the Islamic nation on the removal of the 14-year affliction. Now that you are talking from the Presidential Palace in Kabul, how do you view the past 14 years and how do you feel?

[Mojaddedi] In the name of God, the merciful and compassionate, my dear brother, I offer my greetings and thanks to MBC, our Arab brothers, Muslims, and the Islamic nation. I congratulate the Islamic nation on the great success that God Almighty bestowed on us and on the Afghan people. Thank God, the former Soviet republics gained their independence and this is one of the blessings of our jehad. May security spread throughout the world, God willing. These are the blessings of the Afghan martyrs' blood. As for my feelings, when a child returns to his mother's lap after a long time, how would he feel? We have come to Kabul after 14 years. I traveled several times near Kabul and the various governorates of Afghanistan on foot, on horse, and by car. Kabul is something else. Our capital was under communist rule. Thank God, we have come as Muslims in support of Islamic rule and government in Kabul. This is a source of great pride and joy for us. Whenever it was time for the Islamic 'Id while we were abroad, we used to say that we would celebrate it when we proudly returned to Kabul.

[Farghali] The road was long and you had friends from fraternal Islamic countries. You spoke a great deal about these countries' roles. Now that they and you are victorious, can you name them and define the prospects of future relations with the international community and the Islamic world?

[Mojaddedi] My dear brother, the Islamic countries in general assisted us and always stood by us and supported our cause. I remember the days of the late Anwar al-Sadat. When we began our jehad, al-Sadat was the first to support us. The first arms shipment that reached us came from Egypt. The government and people of Saudi Arabia assisted us. They were the greatest contributors during the past 14 years. The Pakistani Government and people hosted more than 3 million Afghan refugees. They also offered military, political, moral, and material aid to the Afghan refugees and mojahedin. The Gulf countries helped us and Iran hosted more than 2 million Afghan refugees. The Iranian Government always helped us politically and sent humanitarian aid. Even Western countries—France, Germany, Britain, the Scandinavian countries—and the PRC helped us. The United States, in fact, was one of the biggest countries to help us during the past 14 years. The major aid came from the United States. The Americans helped us in the political, military, and material fields. The United Nations every year adopted resolutions against the Soviet Union. [words indistinct] The Islamic Conference Organization [ICO], the Islamic foreign ministers conference, and Islamic summits always sided with us and supported us. The first governments to recognize the provisional government we formed in Pakistan were Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Malaysia, and Bahrain. These four countries recognized our government. The ICO gave the Afghanistan seat to our foreign minister. I attended the ICO summit in Dakar in my capacity as head of the provisional Afghan government. I thank all these countries for the help they provided us in all fields.

[Farghali] We thank God Almighty that Afghanistan and the Afghan issue have demonstrated the extent of Islamic unity against foreign threats. The military threat, however, disappeared approximately three or four years ago. The communist danger also disappeared after that. Afghanistan is now in the hands of the Afghan people and the Afghan Muslims. What are the priorities of the coming phase? How can this state, which was destroyed during 14 years of war and communism, be rebuilt?

[Mojaddedi] Brother. When we started the jehad, we had nothing. We started with sticks, stones, and old rifles. We depended solely on God, praise be to him. Now we still depend on God. God Almighty granted us success in our great jehad and in liberating this Islamic homeland. We implore God Almighty to grant us success in rebuilding this Islamic country. God willing, when you honor us with a visit to our country in the next five to 10 years, you will see a major change in the reconstruction of Afghanistan. To reconstruct our country, our brothers must work earnestly and sincerely, repudiate all their tribal, personal, and organizational differences, stand together, and start to reconstruct Afghanistan as one. But it is inevitable that the Islamic, non-Islamic, and peace-loving states will help us materially, politically, and morally to rebuild this ancient Islamic country.

[Farghali] God willing. But the question that should naturally be asked, is: What role will the mojahedin play in the coming phase? By mojahedin, I mean those who endured and took up arms for such a long time. The mojahedin organizations lack technocrats or administrators skilled in managing government affairs. They have lengthy experience with war, fighting, and struggle, but who will play this technocratic role in the state of Afghanistan?

[Mojaddedi] Undoubtedly, this completely devastated country requires the scientific and intellectual assistance of our Afghan brothers. We have thousands of engineers, doctors, and specialists in arts and other fields of expertise in Europe, America, and various other countries. Now that Afghanistan has been liberated, the doors are open to all our brothers to return to their country and participate in reconstructing it. If we feel that there is a shortage of scientific and other experts, we will seek the assistance of the Islamic countries first, such as Pakistan, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt. If this is not possible, we will seek unconditional assistance from Western countries to rebuild this country, God willing. If we can establish peace and security in this country and give each one his due, all or the majority of our Afghan brothers abroad will return to serve the country and the Muslims.

[Farghali] God willing. With regard to the process and march toward development and the Afghan renaissance, what threat does the opposition of some parties, especially the Islamic party, pose to this process?

[Mojaddedi] Brother. There is a great deal of propaganda by those parties which have much potential in Afghanistan. I am pleased to say that the people are backing them. Now you can see that only about 2 or 3 percent of the people are not backing them. They are a small minority. First and foremost, I ask God Almighty to guide them to the righteous path so that they will abandon their arms and join their brothers in building this country, their homeland.

Rabbani Cited on Council's Efforts for Unity

BK0105101492 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 1 May 92

[Text] Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, the chief of Jam'iyat-e Eslami Afghanistan, told Radio Pakistan's representative in Peshawar yesterday evening that the interim council has begun making every effort to forge unity and harmony among various mojahedin groups and to create a sense of security among people. Security committees comprising commanders have been set up in all provinces to restore normalcy. Referring to Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif's visit to Afghanistan on Wednesday [29 April], Prof. Rabbani said his offer of financial assistance and food grains has provided a strong basis for economic recovery in Afghanistan.

Reportage on Factional Differences, Kabul Fighting

Mojahedin in Jalalabad Vow to Oust Militia

BK0405170492 Hong Kong AFP in English 1632 GMT 4 May 92

[By Gina Doggett]

[Text] Jalalabad, Afghanistan, May 4 (AFP)—Mojahedin controlling this eastern Afghan city say they are prepared to fight to oust militiamen from Kabul.

To the some 15,000 mainly Pashtun mojahedin here, the continued presence of former government militiamen in the Afghan capital is intolerable.

Mojahedin commanders occupying a disused teachers training college here told AFP Monday that if the militia of former general 'Abdol Rashid Dostam "do not get out of Kabul the mojahedin will go to Kabul and fight against the Gelam Jam."

Gelam Jam, which literally means carpet-snatchers, refers to the militiamen's notorious plundering practices of the past.

The three commanders—Mohammad Siddiq and Mohammad Musa of the moderate National Liberation Front of Afghanistan (NIFA) and Mohammad Faruq of the faction supporting Yunes Khales—all threw their support behind sidelined radical leader Golboddin Hekmatyar.

"In the whole Afghanistan, only Hekmatyar is a very good struggler," one said, adding, "we support Hekmatyar."

They said Abdul Qadir, member of Hezb-e Eslami faction of Khales had been elected at a Showra (consultative council) on April 26 to lead Jalalabad, adding that troops from different factions were cooperating in securing the city.

They said the main problem facing the area was the presence of mines and that some 150 had been injured by mines since the fall of Jalalabad on April 23.

Afghanistan's third largest city was calm and relaxed Monday, except for the jubilant half-hour at mid-day when President-designate Borhanoddin Rabbani and a convoy of at least 200 trucks passed through en route to Kabul.

Rabbani, political chief of the Jam'iyat-e Eslami and slated to become head of state in about seven weeks, was joined by Rasul Seyyef of the Ettehad-e Eslami as he crossed the frontier.

Also accompanying him was Nabi Mohammadi, leader of the Harakat Enqelab Islami, another of the seven mojahedin groups based in Peshawar in Pakistan, which have taken power in Kabul after nearly 14 years' war.

Under a inter-mojahedin accord signed in Pakistan on April 24, Rabbani—who has not been to Kabul in 18 years—is to become Afghanistan's head of state.

The job is currently being filled by Sebgatollah Mojaddedi, chairman of a 50-member mojahedin interim council that is fulfilling the role of government in Kabul for two months.

Rabbani, like Jam'iyat's famed military commander Ahmad Shah Mas'ud whose forces led the mojahedin takeover of Kabul, belongs to Afghanistan's Tajik minority.

Hezb-e Eslami Denies Firing on Kabul

BK0405165992 Hong Kong AFP in English 1648 GMT 4 May 92

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, May 4 (AFP)—The Hezb-e Eslami resistance faction denied Monday it was responsible for the firing on Kabul that killed at least 15 people, according to hospital sources, and blamed the attack on government militia.

"The militia are firing rockets...Hezb mojahedin are defending themselves," Qaribur Rahman Said, director of the Hezb's AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY and close aide to faction leader Golboddin Hekmatyar, told AFP.

"Militia forces (including those of Uzbek commander 'Abdol Rashid Dostam) are not in control of anyone," said Said, who just returned to Pakistan after two weeks in Afghanistan.

He stressed that militia of the former government, now loyal to the interim mojahedin administration in Kabul, were not part of a ceasefire agreed last week between the Hezb and rival Jam'iyat-e Eslami of Ahmad Shah Mas'ud.

"Mas'ud does not control these people," he added.

He also reiterated that the militia, who are fighting the Hezb, "must quit (Kabul) at the earliest."

State-run Radio Kabul, monitored in Pakistan, reported late Monday that 30 rockets were fired on Kabul during the day, killing at least 13 people and injuring 77.

'Agitator Groups' Kill 13 in Missile Attacks

LD0405170292 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 4 May 92

[Excerpt] Agitator groups today fired 30 surface-to-surface missiles and heavy weapons on the residential areas of Kabul city's 7th, 9th, and 10th wards, martyring 13 of our Muslim compatriots—including women and children—and injuring 77 others.

We all come from God and shall return to Him!

BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY's military section, quoting a Kabul garrison source, says that the injured were transported to hospitals immediately and are under serious medical treatment and observation. Three houses in Zaman Khan Kalay and Cement Khan were partially damaged and considerable financial losses have been inflicted on our compatriots as a result of the impact of these missiles and weapons. The agitators and subversive groups fire missiles and heavy weapons on the residential areas of their Muslim and religious brothers when, with the help of Almighty God and with the countless self-sacrifices of the martyr-seeking nation of Afghanistan, an Islamic state has been established and when all of our comptriots welcome this great historic event with great enthusiasm and Islamic feelings. [passage omitted]

Barrage Hits Kabul Airport, City Center

BK0505091692 Hong Kong AFP in English 0820 GMT 5 May 92

[By Kate Webb]

[Text] Kabul, May 5 (AFP)—Anti-government Afghan guerrillas unleashed a heavy barrage of rocket and artillery fire around Kabul airport and the presidential palace in the city centre Tuesday.

It was not immediately clear if the airport had been hit in the barrage fired from a mountain overlooking the city center, but airport spokesmen said that all flights in and out of the capital had been cancelled for 24 hours.

Lumps of shrapnel from two successive shells landed on the grounds of the French embassy on Kabul's Peace Avenue, damaging a car but causing no casualties.

Another shell was seen crashing into the compound of the Bulgarian embassy.

Residents fled the area and diplomats sought bunkers as the shells fired by the troops of Golboddin Hekmatyar crashed into the Wazir Akbar Khan diplomatic area from Sherdawazara mountain, where they appeared to have set up mortar and artillery positions overnight.

The radio and television complex at one end of the diplomatic compound came under heavy shelling, diplomats in the area said.

Troops loyal to the week-old government of mojahedin leader Sebgatollah Mojaddedi fired back from Bibimaru hill, some 3.5 kilometers (two miles) away.

There was no indication of casualties, and diplomats said they believed that the opposition gunners were trying to hit the presidential palace, and a nearby headquarters of the rival Jam'iyat-e Eslami faction.

They said the shelling and government counter-barrages had started about 5.30 a.m. (1300 GMT), and said there were reports that the Hekmatyar forces had infiltrated the Baba Shah gardens at the foot of the mountain overnight.

Jet fighters took off to try to blunt the rear lines of the attackers, but it seemed clear they were trying to not hit near the inner city suburbs.

Rocket and artillery attacks killed 13 people and injured 74 by official count in Kabul on Monday, when an Islamic interim government completed its first week in office.

Reportage on Return to Normalcy in Country

Airline Resumes Flights; Prices Down

LD0205125492 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1120 GMT 2 May 92

[Interviews with Ariana Airlines employees Abdulodzhon and Ayotollah by unidentified correspondent in Ariana ticket offices in Kabul on 2 May—live]

[Text] [Correspondent] Dear listeners of Radio Afghanistan! As our colleague told you earlier, all official institutions are working as before, carrying out their normal daily duties. We are now in the ticket office of Ariana Airlines and intend to report from here for you. We hope you will stay with during this report from the Ariana Airlines ticket office. Can you please introduce yourself?

[Abdulodzhon] My name is Abdulodzhon, member of the international sales department.

[Correspondent] Could you please talk about your work? Is it continuing normally or otherwise? Could give us some information about this?

[Abdulodzhon] Thank you. First, I would like to congratulate the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and all Muslims in Afghanistan. As our compatriots know through the mass media, the flights of Ariana Afghan Airlines have resumed starting Saturday, which is today. Today, we had two flights, one to Dehli and the other to [word indistinct]. We have taken passengers for the flights and sent them to the airport. Currently, our work is continuing. No difficulty has arisen in our work. We are always, particularly with the establishment of the Islamic government in Afghanistan, working with interest, wide interest. All my colleagues arrived for work in a festive mood. We are doing our job without feeling tired.

[Correspondent] Have you sold tickets to passengers today?

[Abdulodzhon) Yes! We sold about 60 to 70 tickets.

[Correspondent] I want to ask for your opinion after the success of the Islamic revolution in our country. What is your opinion on this matter?

[Abdulodzhon] We are so happy that even if we work here through the night we will not feel tired. All my colleagues came here to sell tickets. They don't feel tired. We are always at the service of the passengers.

[Correspondent] Thank you for talking to me. I wish you success.

Now, dear listeners, at this moment several of our brothers who have bought flight tickets and want to fly are opposite me. Brother, please introduce yourself.

[Ayotolla] My name is Ayotolla. I came to the ticket office of Ariana because one of my friends is going to Delhi. They will be flying to Dehli tomorrow or the day after tomorrow.

[Correspondent] How do you assess the state of work in the Ariana ticket office?

[Ayotolla] The state of work is very normal. Our friends are working properly as in the past, very normally. Security in Kabul city is well maintained. It is calm and normal.

[Correspondent] You were talking of security in the town. What was the approach of our mojahed brothers toward you?

[Ayotolla] We are extremely pleased with our mojahed brothers. They are relating to us very sincerely, properly and in brotherhood. We are always happy with them. May God protect them so they can always approach us in such a good way. We are pleased with them.

[Correspondent] With the victory of the Islamic revolution in our country, how does the situation in the country affect you, especially in relation to prices?

[Ayotolla] On prices, well, I have a good news for you. Today the price for flour is now about 800 Afghanis for one sir [approximately 75g]. One box of oil, which we previously bought for 25-30 thousand Afghanis, has now been priced in the city for 12 thousand Afghanis. The price of the dollar has dropped to 400-450 Afghanis. We hope prices will drop further. They have said lamb meat is being sold freely today at 1,500 Afghanis per kilogram.

[Correspondent] Thank you, brother for talking to us, I wish you passengers a good flight.

Reporter Surveys 'Normal' Life

LD0205150192 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1130 GMT 2 May 92

[Text] The situation in Kabul today has been normal. Kabul residents are living in an atmosphere of peace, calm, order and security as they go about their everyday work and normal life. They have joyfully received [words indistinct] the victory of the mojahedin and the establishment of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, under the leadership of Esteemed Professor Sebghatollah Mojaddedi.

A BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY [BIA] reporter has given us a report on interviews with various people in Kabul. Shops in various parts of the city are open today. People can be seen in the city's markets and bazaar. They are busy with their daily work [words indistinct]. State and public institutions are serving the public. State establishment employees are working to provide services for their Muslim compatriots [passage indistinct]

Our mojahed brothers are working orderly at security posts in the city to maintain the security of our compatriots, to maintain public services and to protect [words indistinct]. Public transportation is functioning and taking Kabul residents to their required destinations.

The BIA reporter says that, during the few days since the establishment of the Islamic State of Afghanistan and the victory of the mojahedin, consumer goods and basic foodstuffs, particularly flour, wheat and milk are being sold to the public at low prices. This has been received with satisfaction by the Kabul city residents. Ministries, banks, hospitals [word indistinct] telecommunications, public service institutions, coupon stores are serving city residents and [passage indistinct]

'Experts Living Abroad' Urged to Return

BK0305095092 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 3 May 92

[Text] The interim council of Afghanistan has urged technocrats, intellectuals, and experts living abroad to return home to participate in the rehabilitation and reconstruction program of the country. The council has already announced a general amnesty for all those who have been working with the previous regime installed in Kabul through foreign intervention.

Radio Pakistan's special representative, who was in Kabul for the past few days, says that government employees who had deserted their jobs have started resuming their duties. Life is gradually returning to normal and basic amenities are being restored at various places. Electricity, water supply, and telecommunications links including air flights have been resumed. Meanwhile, with the arrival of 170 trucks carrying food aid from Pakistan, the food situation will be eased in Kabul. A spokesman of the new administration has expressed relief over the arrival of the food convoy and hoped that as the situation becomes normal, prices of various commodities will also come down.

India

Reportage on Russian Technology Transfer Accords

Yeltsin Aide Says Deal To Be Honored

BK0305094892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 3 May 92

[Text] Russia today made it categorically clear that it respects the agreement for transfer of rocket technology to India. A close aide of President Yeltsin and the secretary of state, Dr. Gennadiy Burbulis, said India need not have any concern in this regard. Talking to reporters on his arrival in New Delhi today, he indicated that third-party objections of a legal or treaty nature will be sorted out. India is to get a cryogenic engine, a secondary stage rocket to place a satellite in a stationary orbit under a 1991 agreement. It is slated for delivery in another two years, but recent reports suggested that President Yeltsin has ordered a pause in the technology transfer under U.S. objections.

Answering a question, Dr. Burbulis said that there has been no suspension of the deal but only a practical, technical break, as he put it. The Russian secretary of state is carrying a personal message from President Yeltsin to the prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao. A high-powered delegation is accompanying him. He is the first top Russian leader to come to New Delhi after the disintegration of the Soviet Union.

Burbulis Denies 'Cooling Toward India'

BK0305162492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 3 May 92

[Excerpts] Russia has made it clear that it will honor the 1991 agreement on transfer of rocket technology to India. A close aide of the Russian president and the secretary of state, Dr. Gennadiy Burbulis, said that India need not have any concern on the issue. Talking to newsmen on his arrival in New Delhi today, he indicated that third party objections to the treaty will be sorted out. [passage omitted]

In a statement, Dr. Burbulis hoped his talks with Indian leaders will promote better relations between the two countries and dispelled the impression that Moscow is cooling toward India, he said. [sentence as heard] Besides the rocket technology transfer issue, rupee-ruble exchange rate, bilateral trade, and supply of defense spares are expected to figure in the three-day talks in New Delhi.

At a meeting between the finance minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, and the visiting Russian secretary of state, Gennadiy Burbulis, in the capital today, it was agreed to

maintain relations between the two countries in a practical way. The whole gamut of bilateral relations, including the issue of rupee-ruble trade and exchange rate, were discussed.

Briefing newsmen, the foreign secretary, Mr. Dixit, said that the Russian side wanted to continue trade in several items, including export of petroleum, fertilizer, and newsprint to India. Russia's defense supplies, its credit for supplying power equipment, and cooperation in space also came up during the talks. The two sides also reviewed the issue of nuclear nonproliferation and the international situation.

Several union ministers, Mr. Chidambaram, Mr. Eduardo Faleiro, Mr. Krishnakumar, and Mr. Kalpnath Rai, besides top-level officials, took part in the deliberations.

Officials Sign Cooperation Agreements

BK0505001292 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 4 May 92

[Text] India and Russia today signed two agreements to strengthen their bilateral cooperation. The agreement on trade and economic cooperation was signed by the commerce minister, Mr. P. Chidambaram, and the visiting Russian secretary of state, Dr. Burbulis. The second agreement on setting up intergovernmental commission on trade, economic, scientific and technical cooperation was signed by Dr. Burbulis and the minister of state for external affairs, Mr. Eduardo Faleiro. Both the agreements will be valid for five years. The important feature of the agreement on trade and economic cooperation is that all payments are to be made in the freely convertible currency unless otherwise specified by governmental agreement.

Dr. Burbulis had an hour-long meeting with the prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, during which the two countries stressed the importance of their bilateral relations. He handed over a message to Mr. Narasimha Rao from the Russian president, Mr. Boris Yeltsin. Mr. Narasimha Rao said that the visit of Dr. Burbulis and his delegation is timely and will prove to be useful. Noting with satisfaction the constructive talks of the Russian delegation with the finance minister and other officials, he said that he is looking forward to President Yeltsin's visit to India later this year. Dr. Burbulis gave a detailed review of the situation in his country including its deliberations with the other CIS republics. He said Russia is going through a process of reforms which is both difficult and risky. The two leaders also shared their perceptions of the international situation. Dr. Burbulis called on the presidnet, the vice president and held meetings with the defense minister and the minister for power.

Burbulis: Russia 'Firm' on Deal

BK0505080892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 5 May 92

[Text] The Russian secretary of state, Mr. Gennadiy Burbulis, has said that his country remains firm on the question of supplying rocket technology to India. Addressing a press gathering in New Delhi today, he said this is in confirmation of his country's obligations and fully in line with the norms of international relations. Mr. Burbulis did not agree with the suggestion for holding tripartite talks which would include the United States, saying that it can produce little.

Referring to the U.S. threat, Mr. Burbulis said the issue can serve as an example to any state which tries to be a lawmaker on a global scale without taking into account the interests of its partner. The Russian state secretary described his talks with the Indian leaders as very successful which has provided a sound base for cooperation between the two countries. He said the two sides have a similarity of views practically on all issues including the reforms being carried out in the two countries.

U.S. Opposition to Russian Transfer Criticized

Minister Rejects U.S. Objection

BK0405093692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 4 May 92

[Text] India will not deviate from the commitment of using space technology only for peaceful purposes. This was stated by the minister of state for external affairs, Mr. Eduardo Faleiro, in the Rajya Sabha during question hour today. Replying to supplementaries, he said the American objection to the sale of cryogenic engine to India does not hold good as New Delhi's record for using space technology for peaceful purposes is well-known. India also does not transfer technology to any third country. The minister said no fresh conditionalities have been conveyed to India by the visiting Russian secretary of state, Dr. Gennadiy Burbulis, on the rocket issue.

Legislators Condemn U.S. 'Threat'

BK0505105892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 5 May 92

[Text] The Bush administration has warned India and Russia that if they complete the recent technology transfer deal, they will have to face economic sanctions. The State Department spokesperson is reported to have said Washington has held detailed discussions with both the countries and decision on imposing sanctions on them will be announced soon. PTI says the State Department officials have clarified to Indian officials that even if Washington decides to impose penalties, it will not be against the countries concerned, but against the organizations exporting and importing the technology. The impression given by the spokesperson, Ms. Margaret Tutwiler, is that the sanctions will be against India's

ISRO [Indian Space Research Organization] and Russia's Glavcosmos, the premier organizations of the two countries.

Members in the Lok Sabha today condemned the alleged U.S. threat against India and Russia on the rocket technology transfer issue. Raising the matter during zero hour, Mr. Ram Vilas Paswan, Janata Dal, demanded that India must register a strong protest and Third World countries must be mobilized to protect their honor. The leader of the opposition, Mr. L.K. Advani, lauded Russia for announcing that it will stand by its commitment to transfer cryogenic engine technology to India. Left Front leaders and the treasury bench also joined him in criticizing the U.S. browbeating and called for collective response. There was also a demand that India should cancel the proposed joint naval exercises with the United States.

In the Rajya Sabha also, members cutting across party lines, condemned the reported American warning to India and Russia that Washington will impose penalties against them if the proposed sale of the rocket engine to India is not canceled. Raising the matter through a special mention, Mr. Kapil Verma, Congress-I, said that the U.S. threat is an interference in the internal affairs of India and demanded a statement from the government on the issue.

The Russian secretary of state, Mr. Gennadiy Burbulis, has said that his country is firm on the question of supplying rocket technology to India. Addressing a press gathering in New Delhi today, he said this is in confirmation of his country's obligations and it is fully in line with the norms of international relations. Mr. Burbulis did not agree with the suggestion for holding tripartite talks which will include the United States, saying that it can produce little.

Referring to the U.S. threat, Mr. Burbulis said the issue can serve as an example to any state which tries to be a lawmaker on the global scale without taking into account the interests of its partner. [sentence as heard] The Russian state secretary described his talks with the Indian leaders as very successful which have provided a sound base for cooperation between the two countries.

Mr. Burbulis hinted that during the visit of the Russian president, Mr. Yeltsin, to India in the second half of the current year, an Indo-Russian friendship treaty will be signed. He said during his talks with the Indian leaders they discussed the Indo-Soviet treaty and clarified certain clauses. He said Russia has already confirmed 67 out of the 140 agreements signed between India and the erstwhile Soviet Union.

Official Terms U.S. Patent Ruling 'Unfortunate'

BK0205090292 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 2 May 92

[Text] The deputy chairman of the Planning Commission, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, has described as unfortunate the U.S. decision to put India under Special-301 List and said that New Delhi will resist any such pressure. Speaking at meet-the-press program in Varanasi, Mr. Mukherjee said India has reservations regarding the patent laws of the developed countries and the Dunkel proposals as these are against the oppressive Indian industries, particularly its drug and chemical industries.

Janata Dal Condemns Trade Measure

BK0205130092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 2 May 92

[Text] The Janata Dal has condemned the U.S. Government's action against India under Special-301 for its alleged inadequate protection of intellectual property rights in the pharmaceutical industry. Talking to newsmen in New Delhi today, the party spokesman, Mr. Harikishore Singh, said that the U.S. action is tantamount to pressurize India to toe the American line to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and accept Dunkel proposals.

CPI-M Protests U.S. 'Racial Violence'

BK0205132492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 2 May 92

[Text] The CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] today held a demonstration in front of the American Information Center in New Delhi to condemn the racial violence in Los Angeles and other U.S. cities. The protestors displayed placards condemning the action of the U.S. police leading to unprecendented rioting, killings, and imposition of curfew. The demonstrators were also protesting against the American action suspending duty concession on the import of Indian pharmaceuticals.

Ministry 'Skeptical' of Pakistani Nuclear Policy

BK0205090892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 2 May 92

[Text] India has expressed satisfaction and optimism over the positive trends that have emerged in its relations with its neighbors. The annual report of the Ministry of Defense said that despite continued external support to subversive elements, the country remains committed to peace and amicably resolving all bilateral problems. The report also expresses concern over the postures adopted by Pakistan on various issues and its military tie-ups with various countries. It also refers to Pakistan's clandestine nuclear-weapon program which is evident in the recent official-level admission of Islamabad having the capability of assembling its own nuclear weapons. This, the report says, has made India more skeptical of Pakistan's suggestion for a multilateral approch to the nuclear issue in South Asia.

Army Spokesman Denies Pakistani Bus Fired At

BK0105125892 Hong Kong AFP in English 1158 GMT 1 May 92

[Text] Muzaffarabad, Pakistan-controlled Kashmir, May 1 (AFP)—Three people were killed in a village north of

here when Indian soldiers fired on a bus from across the border Friday, residents said.

According to officials, the incident occured in Seemari, in the Neelum Valley, some 60 kilometers (38 miles) from Muzaffarabad, the capital of Pakistan-controlled Kashmir.

No more details were immediately available.

(In India, an army spokesman said "there may have been an exchange of fire," but he denied any shooting on a bus.)

'No Question' of Giving Corridor to Bangladesh

BK0405095892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 4 May 92

[Text] The minister of state for external affairs, Mr. Eduardo Faleiro, has said that there is no question of handing over the Tin Bigha corridor to Bangladesh. Giving this information during question hour in the Rajya Sabha today, he said, however, an agreement has been reached with Bangladesh to allow their citizens to have access to the corridor. Mr. Faleiro said that the government will take up with the Bangladeshi prime minister, Begum Khaleda Zia, who is expected to visit the country soon, the issue of large-scale influx of refugees from Bangladesh. He said at present, 60,000 Chakma [tribe] refugees are living in camps in Tripura. A large number of them have refused to return home because of inadequate security arrangements in the Chittagong Hills. Mr. Faleiro said that they have also raised some political demands including granting of autonomy to the people living in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

Delhi Radio Assesses Situation in Afghanistan

BK0205162092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 2 May 92

[Text] Reports from Kabul say differences continue in the ruling interim council on the issue of having a unified command of all mojahedin forces. The 51-member council met today in the Afghan capital to discuss the situation. The supporters of General Rashid Dostam reportedly opposed the idea of a unified command structure. Mr. 'Abdol Haq, one of the powerful mojahedin commanders, told reporters that an agreement on limiting the number of armed mojahedin will emerge later today or tomorrow. He said that the present government in Kabul should be made broadbased. Mr. Haq said that the Hezb-e Eslami leader, Mr. Golboddin Hekmatyar, should be involved in the exercise.

Meanwhile, the first flight from Kabul to New Delhi was operated today after a gap of eight days. According to report, about 100 trucks loaded with essential supplies were prevented from reaching the capital city by forces loyal to Mr. Hekmatyar.

As already reported, the interim council has granted amnesty to the deposed president Dr. Najib.

BJP Reaffirms Resolve To Build Ayodhya Temple

BK0105101692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 1 May 92

[Text] The Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] has reiterated its commitment to the construction of the Sri Ram temple at Ayodhya. The party president, Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, said that the BJP government in Uttar Pradesh is fully resolved to remove all impediments in the way of the reconstruction of the temple. It has taken many steps in this direction including the leasing out of a plot of about 17 hectares to the Ram Janmabhoomi Niwas. Dr. Joshi was inaugurating the three-day meeting of the party's national council in Gandhinagar, Gujarat this morning. He said the party rejects what he called the concept of pseudo-secularism and minorityism. Referring to the prime minister's recent statements about secular parties at the Congress-I session at Tirupati, Dr. Joshi said these have serious implications.

Iran

Tehran TV: Afghanistan 'Under Control'

LD0105192392 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 1 May 92

[Unidentified correspondent's video report from Kabul]

[Text] [Video shows footage of Kabul, including a mosque which is named after Ayatollah Khomeyni, with his picture decorating the gate to the mosque; head of interim government in a gathering of Kabul dignitaries, and cleric seated on the floor] (?Kabul) is going through some the most sensitive days in its history. Despite the clashes during the transfer of power in Afghanistan, at the moment the situation is gradually becoming calm, although there are a few scattered clashes between rival forces.

On the whole security and order in the city is completely under the control of the interim Islamic government's forces, and the people have resumed their normal activities, with optimism about the future.

Hekmatyar's opposition continues. In the southern areas of Kabul there have been clashes recently between the forces of the interim Islamic Government and Hekmatyar. On the other hand, the 51-member Council of the Afghan mojahedin, led by Mr. Mojaddedi, has held sessions several times so far in order to review the situation in Afghanistan and Kabul's security.

Kabul's radio and television also try to normalize the situation by broadcasting the statements of the interim government. Last night Kabul television, quoting the spokesman for the Afghan Mojahedin Council, announced that public departments and banks must resume their activities from Saturday, and that flights from Kabul Airport must be resumed.

The clerics in mosques invite the people to unity and unanimity. The people consider the government and the mojahedin to be part of them and cooperate with them in order to maintain order and security in the city.

Within the last few days, a shortage of basic foodstuffs, fuel, and other requirements has increased, and it is predicted that if international aid is not sent to this country the shortages may turn into a serious crisis.

A decision on the timing and method of holding elections and resolving the economic problems of public servants and the military is one of the issues being raised in Kabul today.

Larijani on Support for Afghanistan, Leadership

NC0505115792 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 23 Apr 92 p 16

[Mohammad Javad Larijani commentary from the "Weekly Political Newsletter" column: "Afghanistan and Its Immortal Saga"]

[Text] 1. The powerful will long remember the defeat one of the world's greatest military powers suffered in Afghanistan at the hands of resistance by poor, ordinary, and armed, yet decisive, brave, and pious people. The Kremlin, of course, did not believe what the late leader of the revolution Imam Khomeyni (may his soul be sanctified) told the former Soviet ambassador. Things started to sink in only after hundreds of thousands had lost their lives, when millions became refugees, and when Afghanistan was reduced to rubble.

2. It is no secret that the Islamic revolution in Iran and its leaders played a major role in the organization, perseverance, and resistance of the Muslim Afghan nation. Furthermore, within the revolution's huge moral swells, which increased the determination to defeat the enemy and win, the Islamic Republic's courageous policy has been the Afghan jihad's greatest supporter. Gorbachev concluded after 1985 and 1986 that the Afghanistan issue was closed for the Soviet Union, and disgracefully at that. Thus, Soviet policy was altered to one of rapid withdrawal from Afghanistan and cutting its losses. During those years I was in Moscow on an assignment. Gromyko had just been appointed president. Gromyko had an odd character. On the one hand, after 30 years the Foreign Ministry had begun to follow his thinking (looking abroad), and on the other hand his group-ideological concurrence with Marxism set him before internal changes. At the end of our lengthy and relatively heated discussions, Gromyko's conclusion was: If Iran shows even the slightest support for Russia on the Afghanistan issue, in such a way that the people will begin to doubt Iran's views on the justness of the mojahedin, Russia will act to Iran's benefit in the imposed war and will even go a step further; and Russia can carry out this project gradually so that it can gain Iran's confidence. But in response to Gromyko's explicit and clear proposal, Iran's foreign policy—delineated by our late great leader, may his soul be sanctified—was very clear: No step detrimental to the Muslim people or our sacred defense would be taken. During that meeting I saw in Gromyko's wrathful eyes the determination to exact revenge. But even though the missiles and bombs given to Iraq killed our defenseless women and children in their homes, we foresaw the deplorable situation that the despicable Ba'thist regime eventually faced.

3. It is true that today there is a strong and dangerous power struggle among the Afghan factions and that some are trying to reap benefits from this situation. But the Afghan nation knows that its greatest supporter is the Islamic territory of Iran on its western border.

While some countries pocketed money on the pretext of helping the Afghans, Iran suffered all the powerful and difficult military pressures of the Soviet Union through Iraq for the sake of defending a great Islamic principle; and this best proves the sincerity of Iranian policy.

The winner in Afghanistan will be he who, first of all, does not sacrifice his logic and prudence for the sake of quenching the fatal thirst for power but relies on existing capabilities and realities. Second, this person will be able to tell friend from foe and think of Afghanistan's future. Only then will an Islamic country which will serve to remind of the immortal saga of more than a decade of resistance and jehad be established on this rubble, God willing.

Khamene'i Meets With Lebanese Hizballah Leader

LD0405121692 Tehran IRNA in English 1132 GMT 4 May 92

[Text] Tehran, May 4, IRNA—The leader of the Islamic revolution Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i on Monday said the future of Lebanon, despite all enemy propaganda, is "bright and promising."

In a meeting with leader of Lebanon's Hizballah Hasan Nasrallah and some of its leading members here, Ayatollah Khamene'i lauded the devoted and faithful forces of Hizballah for their "firm resolve" on the forefront of the struggle against the Quds [Jerusalem] occupying regime.

Foreign minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and some other ranking officials of his ministry were also present at the meeting.

The revered ayatollah, terming the existence of usurper Zionist entity as being among the "bitter" incidents of the world, said "we should eliminate this bitter event to the benefit of the world oppressed."

He called on Hizballah forces in Lebanon to mobilize all existing capabilities in their "holy jihad."

"The presence of the Islamic republic in this part of the world is the origin of unbelievable incidents throughout the world," he said, adding that "even the very presence of you who are resisting firm in Lebanon is an unbelievable incident."

The leader of the Islamic revolution assured the Hizballah forces in Lebanon that had it been within the power of global arrogance to omit them from the scene of Lebanon, it would have done so.

Ayatolah Khamene'i also termed the involvement of global arrogance especially the U.S. in various clashes around the world and at home as a divine opportunity.

Nasrallah beriefed Ayatollah Khamene'i on Lebanon's situation and the anti-Zionist struggles of the Lebanese people in South Lebanon.

SAIRI Warns Baghdad Against Chemical Weapons

LD0505090692 Tehran IRNA in English 0629 GMT 5 May 92

[Text] Tehran, May 5, IRNA—The Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) Monday warned against deployment of chemical weapons by the Baghdad regime against the inhabitants of the southern marshlands.

SAIRI said that according to informations from military sources inside Iraq, the Ba'thist regime has been stockpiling chemical substances in carefully-guarded depots in the marshes around al- Basrah, al-Amarah and An Nasiriya.

SAIRI added that according to Iraqi officers the Baghdad regime is planning to use the toxic substances against the residents in the marshlands.

Warning about the usage of the chemical weapons, SAIRI said that during the popular uprising in southern and northern Iraq last year Ba'thist regime deployed chemical weapons against the residents of the area at a limited scale. A number of the chemically afflicted residents were sent to the neighboring countries and England for treatment.

Besharati on Improving Relations with Neighbors

NC0205202992 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 21 Apr 92 pp 1, 15

[Report on remarks by First Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati to an unidentified TEHRAN TIMES correspondent on 20 April in Tehran]

[Text] TEHRAN—Certain groups in certain governments are worried on closer and better relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and other countries in the Persian Gulf region, said a senior official of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs yesterday.

Talking to the TEHRAN TIMES First Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati maintained that Iran's relations with countries across the Persian Gulf are improving in various areas after the Iraqi imposed war ended in 1988.

Besharati said, "Well you know that Iran's relations with our neighbors and elsewhere in the world are now different after the war". He said that our relations during the Iraqi imposed war was the result of hostile attitudes against Tehran by certain other countries but which changed after the war as facts were divulged that Iraq and not Iran was initiator and that Iran does not have an eye on the territory of others.

Besharati underlined the fact that contrary to several other countries "Iran enjoyed cordial relations with the United Arab Emirates during the entire period of the imposed war."

The first deputy foreign minister referring to the special relations with al-Shariqah, one of the seven sheikhdoms of the UAE during that period, said the same is continuing even now.

He said, "There was crisis in that shaykhdom and Iran supported Shaykh Sultan bin Muhammad al-Qasimi with all sincerity."

"We still consider him as our friend," Besharati said, adding that his recent stand on Iran is just surprising to us."

He said that after the culmination of the Islamic Revolution in 1979, Iran tried to put new life into the islands in the Persian Gulf and comprehensive construction plans had been under way for the last many years including that at Abu Musa Island.

The comprehensive plans for the Persian Gulf islands include the construction of a hospital, making provisions for sweet water and other day-to-day needs of the people residing there.

Besharati said that these days the issue of Abu Musa Island is in the air and several details have appeared in the media which have no truth at all.

"We abide by what Iran agreed with the UAE in 1971 shortly before the creation of the UAE," Besharati said.

Paper Views Dispute With UAE Over Abu-Musa

NC0505123292 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 22 Apr 92 p 2

[Editorial: "Storm Over Abu-Musa"]

[Text] The visit by the United Arab Emirates [UAE] Foreign Minister, Rashid Bin-'Abdallah al-Na'imi, to Tehran is considered quite significant by political circles in the country, although Iran-UAE ties have been relatively good in the past year—including the war period—and the two nations have never faced any specific problem in their relations.

Nevertheless in the past few days the emergence of crisis in relation with the Abu-Musa Island has had a negative effect on the expanding trend of ties between the two countries. High-ranking authorities in Iran are of the opinion that no new developments have occurred in the island, and that Iran has merely informed Al- Shariqah Shaykhdom that non-UAE citizens wishing to travel to

Abu-Musa should obtain a special card which can not be considered as the equivalent of a visa permit.

It is the indisputable right of any government to exercise its authority on any territory which lies within its dominion. And the exercise of such a right should not, under any circumstances, be termed an expansionist tendency or the exhibition of clout. Al-Shariqah Amir, Sultan Bin-Muhammad al-Qasimi, knows better than anybody else that Iran never intended to put on a show of force against a small neighboring Shaykhdom. During the 1989 crisis in Al-Shariqah, Iran played a key role in restoring Sultan Bin-Muhammad al-Qasimi to power. On the other hand al-Qasimi has always counted on Iranian support in the power equilibrium among the seven Shaykhdoms which make up the United Arab Emirates. Thus the recent hasty and rather vociferous response by the Shaykhdom's Amir has come as a great surprise to political observers in Tehran.

The vital point to be kept in mind is that any mistake in aggrandizing differences in points of view between neighboring countries could extend them to other countries in the Persian Gulf region, and this will in turn lead to the type of crises which could not be contained within the framework of national interests, and will soon be seized upon by the Western powers to justify their unlawful presence in the Persian Gulf and continue their exploitation of the region.

On the other hand, Iranian officials in the foreign policy sphere should beware of engaging in measures which could be construed as threats against the smaller countries in the southern parts of the Persian Gulf. It is quite natural for authorities in these countries to try to justify to their peoples their close relations with the great world powers as necessary precautions against threats from Iran.

Azerbaijani Prosecutor General Pays Visit

Rafsanjani Receives Babayev

LD0405153792 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 4 May 92

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, speaking at a meeting today with Babayev, prosecutor general of the Republic of Azerbaijan, expressed anxiety about the clashes in Karabakh, and said: The Islamic Republic of Iran has done its utmost to put out the fire of war in that region and it will not leave a stone unturned toward that end. Recalling his visit to Azerbaijan, the president said: The love of your country's people for Islam was very noticeable, even when they were under outside domination. He said that the Iranian people share the joy and enthusiasm of the people of Azerbaijan for independence and, stressing the importance of establishing ties and cooperation between the two countries, said: Iran does not see any obstacle in the way of the expansion of ties and cooperation between the two countries, and it welcomes such an expansion in all fields.

Mr. Babayev stressed that the Azerbaijani judicial system would be based on the legal and judicial experiences of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and added: We intend to base our laws on Islam, because we consider such laws to be the most advanced and progressive in the world. He also expressed gratitude for the Islamic Republic of Iran's humanitarian efforts in connection with the Karabakh problem, and he expressed the hope that the problem would soon be solved peacefully.

Babayev Favors Islamic Laws

LD0405184292 Tehran IRNA in English 1628 GMT 4 May 92

[Text] Tehran, May 4, IRNA—Visiting Attorney General of Azerbaijan Babayev here Monday said to Iran's President Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani that his country wishes to adopt Islamic laws as the most progressive of all laws in the world.

He said he and a delegation of jurists from his country are in the Islamic republic in order to learn from the experience of Iran in reforming laws after the victory of the revolution in 1979.

Babayev also appreciated Iran's efforts for solving the issue of Karabakh and expressed hope that the problem would shortly be solved.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani in response expressed his felicitations to the people of Azerbaijan for achieving independence from Soviet rule. He said during his visit to Azerbaijan in 1989 he had personally noticed the interest of the people of that country in Islam.

Rafsanjani said Iran has done everything possible in order to solve the question of Karabakh and will continue its mediation efforts in the future.

He added the two countries could broaden their relations in every sphere and noted that the Islamic republic looks forward to strengthening of relations with Azerbaijan.

The Azerbaijani attorney general and his delegation arrived in Tehran Saturday.

Yazdi, Babayev Confer

NC0505062092 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 5 Apr 92

[Text] Azerbaijan Prosecutor General Murat Babayev met judiciary head Ayatollah Yazdi yesterday afternoon. Azerbaijan needs Iran's assistance to change its structure of laws and regulations and to become better acquainted with the norms and bases of the Islamic legal and judicial systems, Babayev said.

The Islamic body of laws is the most progressive in the world, he continued, adding that this is why Islam has been preserved in our hearts despite 70 years of despotism. I decided to come to Iran on my first visit abroad

since our nation's independence in order to attain knowledge and expertise on Islam.

During the meeting, which Prosecutor General Musavi-Tabrizi also attended, Yazdi said: Islam is a religion of nature and is part of human nature. I can openly say that Islam has the most progressive and enriched legal bases and system of human rights and the most correct system to implement judicial laws.

Rafsanjani Meets With Special Japanese Envoy

LD0405215292 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 4 May 92

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani today met Hashimoto, Japan's special envoy, and offered his thanks to that country's prime minister for his kind message.

Referring to the importance of maintaining security in the Middle East, he said: World problems have assumed a special importance since Marxism's disintegration. We believe that cooperation between Iran and Japan could be to the interests of both countries, the region, and the world. Welcoming Japan's participation in our country's reconstruction and industrial projects, the president called for expanding ties between the two countries.

Hashimoto presented the Japanese prime minister's written message and said: We praise the Islamic Republic of Iran's eye-catching progress, achieved through your excellency's initiative and guidance. The special Japanese envoy offered congratulations on the first round of the Majles elections, saying that these elections were very successful and that they proved to the world that the Islamic Republic of Iran is a free and stable country. He also reported on the Japanese Government's view on world issues in the aftermath of the disintegration of communism. He also called for expanding cooperation between the two countries in all fields.

Va'ezi Meets With Armenian Envoy, Discusses Ties

LD0505091392 Tehran IRNA in English 0722 GMT 5 May 92

[Text] Tehran, May 5, IRNA—Tehran-Yerevan ties and the imminent visit to Tehran of Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan were discussed in a meeting of visiting advisor to Armenian president Vahan Papaziyan and Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmud Va'ezi here Monday.

Papaziyan who arrived here Monday noon heading a high-ranking delegation also discussed progress made in Iran's mediation efforts to settle the dispute between Armenia and Azerbaijan over Karabakh.

An Iranian mediatory team led by Deputy Foreign Minister for Euro-America, Mahmud Va'ezi shuttled between Armenia and Azerbaijan in March and April to help bring peace to the region.

Papaziyan voiced Armenia's support for continuation of Iran's mediation efforts.

In another development, Papaziyan held the first round of talks with Iran's Minister of Economy and Financial Affairs Mohsen Nurbakhsh Monday.

Nurbakhsh outlined Iran's economic plans and voiced willingness to expand trade ties with the neighboring countries.

Referring to the latest developments in Karabakh and its negative impacts, Nurbakhsh expressed hope that Iran's mediatory efforts would lead to establishment of a lasting peace in the region.

Papaziyan expressed hope that the visit of the Armenian president would mark a turning point in mutual economic ties. President Ter-Petrosyan is to arrive in Tehran Wednesday.

Rafsanjani, Culture Minister Open Book Fair

LD0405182892 Tehran IRNA in English 1732 GMT 4 May 92

[Text] Tehran, May 4, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani today inaugurated the Fifth Tehran International Book Exhibition where publishers from 33 countries in addition to 565 Iranian publishers are displaying their latest titles.

The president told the gathering which also included political and cultural officials of participating countries that a home without a library is bound to feel void and empty. He described the book exhibition as a place of cultural exchange where Iranian and foreign publishers will have an opportunity to increase their familiarity. Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani also welcomed the participation of the six Central Asian Muslim Republics in the exhibition, and said the presence of several Muslim states which for years had remained isolated from the Islamic ummah behind an iron curtain, gives the book fair a spiritual atmosphere.

Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Khatami who spoke after the president, called the Tehran book exhibition the most successful one of its kind in West Asia and North Africa. He said book circulation in Iran has increased by 300 percent since the triumph of the Islamic revolution in 1979 and the quality of the publications has also improved tremendously. Khatami added that the foreign publishers have 47,000 books on display at the Tehran fair which also features some 17,500 children's books by 65 Iranian publishers.

Germany was not invited this year because the Bonn government barred Iranian publishers after formal invitation from the 1991 Frankfurt book exhibition.

Publishers from the following countries are participating in the Tehran book fair: Lebanon, Syria, Libya, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Turkey, Yemen, Qatar, Jordan, Tunisia,

Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Kuwait, Saharan Arab Democratic Republic, Australia, Pakistan, Singapore, France, Spain, Malaysia, Denmark, India, Italy, Cyprus, Japan, Switzerland, Netherlands, United States of America, and United Kingdom.

Kazakhstan's Sultanov Arrives For Exhibition

LD0205090692 Tehran IRNA in English 1323 GMT 1 May 92

[Text] Tehran, May 1, IRNA—Minister of Information and Press of Kazakhstan Sultanov arrived here Thursday night to participate in the 5th International Book Exhibition to open here May 5.

During his stay, the Kazakh minister is scheduled to visit several Iranian cities including the holy city of Mashhad, Khorasan province bordering Afghanistan.

He was greeted at Tehran's Mehrabad international airport by Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Khatami.

Kazakhstan Agrees To Use of Shevchenko Port

LD0205105492 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0630 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] The conference on maritime cooperation between Caspian Sea countries began its third day of work today. The representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan taking part in the session called for the expansion of economic and commercial ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran. We begin this bulletin with a report sent by our colleague, Ghaffari, from Sari:

[Ghaffari] The Islamic Republic of Iran can use the port of Shevchenko in the Republic of Kazakhstan to export goods to the Far East. (Anshinbayov), the head of Kazakhstan's delegation, announced this at the conference on maritime cooperation between the Caspian Sea republics and said: Linking the Kazakh National Railway to Shevchenko would be a good way of promoting commercial exchanges between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the countries of the Far East. He added: The Kazakh Republic is anxious to use Iran's Caspian Sea ports and its roads and railways in order to exchange goods with Persian Gulf littoral countries, Europe and other parts of the world.

The head of the Kazakh delegation said: Kazakhstan is in the process of increasing the capacity of its merchant fleet in the Caspian Sea in order to expand maritime cooperation with the countries of the region. He declared the willingness of the Republic of Kazakhstan to establish the necessary facilities for shipping between Iranian and Kazakh ports and for passenger trips by the two countries' nationals.

Maritime Conference Cooperation Protocol Signed

LD0205165192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Text] A protocol on shipping was signed at the end of the maritime conference of the Caspian Sea littoral states in Chalus. Our correspondent reports from Sari center:

[Unidentified correspondent] The five-day conference on maritime cooperation between Caspian Sea littoral states, held in Chalus and attended by representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Russia, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, and Turkmenistan, ended today with the signing of a protocol.

In the protocol the Islamic Republic of Iran has declared its preparedness to transport all transit goods belonging to Caspian Sea littoral states. Sea travel and the construction of passenger lounges at Caspian Sea ports, cooperation, and exchange of information on ways of controlling oil pollution, cooperation in setting up research and lifeguard centers, and the fight against pollution in the Caspian Sea were approved by representatives of the littoral states.

Under the protocol the Caspian Sea Shipping Company, affiliated to the Islamic Republic Shipping Company, is nominated as coordinator of transport, loading, and unloading of cargo at Caspian Sea ports. The littoral states also agreed that the ports of Anzali, Nowshahr, Bandar-e 'Abbas, and Bandar-e Imam Khomeyni in Iran, Baku in Azerbaijan, Aktau in Kazakhstan, Krasnovodsk in Turkmenistan, and Astrakhan in Russia are to be used as transit ports for the littoral states.

Aqazadeh Remarks on Gas Deal With Europe, Ukraine

LD0205033392 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0630 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Remarks by Petroleum Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i; date and place not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted]

Agreement has been reached to construct, from 1996 onwards, two additional [gas] pipelines each with a capacity to transfer 25 billion cubic metres of Iranian gas to Europe. The decision has been reached on the basis of interntional need for Iranian gas. Therefore, in total, 75 billion cubic meters of Iranian gas will be tansferred to the European countries.

This joint project between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Ukraine is very great in volume and is among the top international agreements.

Also in connection with the sale of oil to Ukraine, we have agreed on the sale of four to five million tonnes this year, the transfer of which will begin after banking documents have been prepared.

Also, various discussions are going to be held in other economic fields between Ukraine and the Islamic Republic of Iran. Considering that there is a joint economic commission, the two countries will be assessing all the economic issues on a yearly basis.

Tehran, Brussels Sign Cooperation Agreement

NC0205061892 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 2 May 92

[Text] As we informed you yesterday, Tehran and Brussels concluded the first session of the joint economic cooperation commission of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Belgium and signed a memorandum of understanding for cooperation in the economic, technical, scientific, and industrial fields.

On his return, the Iranian head of the joint economic commission of Tehran and Belgium, Industries Minister Ne'matzadeh told correspondents: The establishment of a joint commission on the ministerial level indicates long-term objectives in economic cooperation between the two countries and scope for expanding cooperation with the EC.

He added: The possibility of boosting exports to Belgium, implementing some industrial projects in Iran with joint investment by two countries, and broadening relations with the EC were among the subjects the Iranian delegation discussed with the Belgian and EC officials.

According to our correspondent, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Belgium exchanged oil and goods worth $1.2 billion last year, of which Iranian non-oil exports to Belgium amounted to $30 million.

Vice President Habibi Leaves For Qatar Visit

LD0505094692 Tehran IRNA in English 0812 GMT 5 May 92

[Text] Tehran, May 5, IRNA—Iran's First Vice-President Hasan Habibi heading a high-ranking delegation left here for Doha, Qatar, Tuesday morning on a three-day official visit.

Speaking before departure, Habibi said that he will review with the Qatari officials the progress made in the agreements reached between the two countries during the last year visit to Tehran of Qatari Crown Prince Shaykh Hamad Bin Khalifah Al Thani and other officals. The agreements include transfer of Iran's fresh water to Qatar and bilateral cooperation in the fields of transportation and education.

Habibi is accompanied by Ministers of Education Mohammad 'Ali Najafi, Construction Jihad Gholam Reza Foruzesh, Roads and Transportation Mohammad Sa'idi-Kia and Commerce 'Abdol Hoseyn Vahaji as well as managing director of IRNA, Hoseyn Nasiri.

Habibi is scheduled to hold two rounds of talks with the Qatari crown prince and meet amir and Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah Bin Hamad Al Thani.

Political observers in Qatar are of the opinion that Habibi's visit will open a new chapter in Tehran-Doha relations and will have impact on regional developments.

Tehran has been working for broadening relations with her neighbors, members of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council in particular, on the basis of mutual respect, non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries and good neighborly relations.

The repeated stress the Qatari officials place on Tehran's key role in regional arrangements, indicates that they are fully aware of the strategic location and power of the Islamic republic in the region.

Besharati Holds Talks With Qatari Deputy Minister

LD0405082392 Tehran IRNA in English 0701 GMT 4 May 92

[Text] Abu Dhabi, May 4, IRNA—Iran's First Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati held the first round of talks with his Qatari counterpart Hamad Bin-'Abdallah al-Mahmud in Doha Sunday.

The Qatari deputy minister expressed pleasure over the rapid promotion of Tehran-Doha political, economic, educational and transportation cooperation. He said Tehran-Doha cooperation has had positive impact on promotion of regional peace and stability.

Besharati who arrived in Doha Saturday to prepare grounds for the visit to Qatar of First Vice-President Hasan Habibi on Tuesday, praised the upward trend of mutual ties and called for implementation of agreements concluded between the two countries. He said ambiguities have been removed and conditions are right for brotherly and friendly relations among regional countries on the basis of understanding.

He said Iranians in the past have played a significant role in the development of Qatar and are now ready to make greater contribution.

Turkish Envoy's Visit 'Positive and Successful'

NC0205181792 Istanbul HURRIYET in Turkish 24 Apr 92 p 16

[Text] Tehran (AA)—Ambassador Ozdem Sanberk, Turkish Foreign Ministry under secretary, has said that Iranian officials have assured him Iran will not support terrorist activities, either directly or indirectly.

In a statement at the end of his two-day visit to Iran, Amb. Sanberk said in Tehran that he held talks with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad 'Ali Besharati, and other deputy ministers and described his visit as "positive and successful." He said that the question of terrorism was also discussed with the Iranian

officials, noting that they disclosed that Iran shares Turkey's anxiety over the matter. Amb. Sanberk quoted the Iranian officials as saying: "We regard Turkey's security as our own security."

Yazdi on 'Unjust Performance' of U.S. Judiciary

LD0405165292 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 4 May 92

[Excerpt] In a meeting with officials of the Judicial Power today, Head of the Judiciary Mr Yazdi referred to the recent turmoil in America, and he criticized the unjust performance of the U.S. judiciary which was in contravention of internationally accepted norms and criteria. This performance clearly proves racism and blatant violation of human rights, and also shows an impudent lack of respect for the oppressed black community of America.

He also, on behalf of the Iranian judicial community, condemned the Government of America for its armed encounter with popular protests and the slaughter of the people. He then said that the United States' claims that it is the standard-bearer of freedom-seeking struggles and that it is the defender of human rights and a campaigner against racism are unreal and without any substance. [passage omitted]

Pakistan

Sharif—Mojahedin Rule in Kabul 'Success of Islam'

BK0105152292 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 1 May 92

[Text] The nation today offered thanksgiving prayers after the Jum'a [Friday] prayers throughout the country over the victory of Afghan mojahedin in their jehad to liberate the country. Addressing the thanksgiving congregation at the Badshahi mosque in Lahore, the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, has said the victory of the mojahedin in the Afghan jehad after 14 years struggle was the success of Islam and hoped that it would pave the way for the liberation of other Muslim occupied territories.

The prime minister congratulated the whole nation and the mojahedin on this great success. The prime minister said due to the valiant struggle of the Pakistani people and Afghan mojahedin, a superpower was forced to pull out of Afghanistan. He hoped with the establishment of Islamic government in Afghanistan, the country would make progress. He announced full assistance and cooperation to the new Islamic government of mojahedin so that it could make a beginning on a firm footing and work with full thrust for the prosperity of the Afghan people. The prime minister paid rich tributes to late President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq and said he was the greatest hero of the Afghan jehad. Both General Mohammad Ziaul Haq and General Ahktar Abdur Rahman laid down their lives for liberation of Afghanistan. Referring to his recent visit to Kabul, the prime minister said it was a moment of great joy and thanksgiving for the Pakistani people.

The Pakistan prime minister and members of his delegation were welcomed amidst slogans of Allah-o-Akbar [God is great]. The prime minister said the success of Afghan jehad has given a new impetus to the Islamic freedom movement. The prime minister called upon the people to serve the country with the same spirit and dedication and Allah, the Almighty will bless us with more victories.

After Jum'a congregation, thanksgiving prayers were offered on the success of the Afghan jehad. At the Badshahi mosque, the minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr. Mohammad Siddique Kanjoo, federal minister for law and justice, provincial ministers, MNAs [members of National Assembly], MPAs [members of provincial assembly] and large numbers of people attended the namaz-i-shukrana [thanksgiving prayers]. [Chanting of "Allaho Akbar" is heard in the background]. They also offered special prayers for the progress and prosperity of the new government of Afghan mojahedin and for the success of Muslim ummah [community].

Later, the prime minister mixed up with the people who congratulated him on the success of 14 years' struggle of the Afghan jehad. Thanksgiving prayers were also offered in all the mosques of the province. The ulema and khatheeb [preachers] in their sermon highlighted the importance of the Afghan jehad.

Minister on Afghanistan, Central Asian Cooperation

BK0205113092 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 2 May 92

[Text] Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Mr. Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo has said liberation of Afghanistan has opened unlimited scope of cooperation between Pakistan and the newly emerging Islamic republics in Central Asia. Addressing the annual dinner of Sadiqain Association of Siddique Public School, Bahawalpur, last night, he said that the victory of Afghan jehad has solved problems of Pakistan at the western border. He said the success has been achieved mainly because of the unity of mojahedin who struggled for liberation of their homeland for the last 14 years. The minister of state said Afghan jehad has conclusively established that no nation could be oppressed into bondage in modern times. Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Mr. Abdul Sattar Lalika aslo attended the function.

Hekmatyar Group Says Dostum Militia Ruling Kabul

BK0405135592 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 4 May 92 p 1

[By Faisal Saeed Qazi]

[Text] Seven days after the interim Afghan council led by Pir Sebghatollah Mojaddedi took over Kabul, Hezb-e Eslami Afghanistan sources in Peshawar are critical of the success of interim set up as they believe that the UN sponsored council is sharing power with Dostam militia in Afghan capital.

Talking to THE FRONTIER POST, an official of Hezb-e Eslami said that the Peshawar agreement had no clause of power sharing with those, who had been accused of killing thousands of innocent Afghans and there was no question of amnesty for the former regime officials. The spokesman suspected that the presence of Gilam Jum militia in Kabul proved that the Mojaddedi government was not controlling the city, rather it was the Dostam militia at the helm of affairs.

The spokeman apprehended that a conspiracy was being hatched to install former King Zaher Shah in Kabul, who is living in exile in Rome. However, the spokesman vowed to foil all such attempts as majority of Afghans did not like Zaher Shah.

Accusing Gelam Jam militia of atrocities in Kabul like genocide, gang rape of women and kids under fourteen and looting public property, the Hezb spokesman vowed to continue struggle against the domination and control of militia. He said, "In fact Gen. Nabi 'Azimi is controlling Kabul now-a-days."

About the announcement of amnesty to Najibollah, he said that those who carried out genocide and tortured innocent people should be tried and if found guilty should be punished. He said that Najibollah deserved punishment.

He said that Hekmatyar had directed his field commanders to restore power supply to Kabul at the earliest from the Sarowbi power plant which is under the control of Hezb-e Eslami.

The leader of Hezb-e Eslami did not rule out an alliance with Mowlawi Nabi Mohammadi's Harakat-e Eslami Afghanistan. He said that the only solution of Afghan problem was to hold general election under the auspices of ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] instead of UN.

Afghanistan's Islamic Front Chief Meets Kanjoo

BK0505030492 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 5 May 92

[Text] A distinguished Afghan leader, Seyyed Ahmad Gaylani, called on Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo in Islamabad yesterday and said that the Afghan people are grateful to the people and the government of Pakistan from the core of their hearts for the assistance and support rendered in the holy war in Afghanistan. Seyyed Ahmad Gaylani, who is the leader of National Islamic Front of Afghanistan, lauded the Pakistani prime minister's efforts for the peaceful transfer of power and political settlement in Afghanistan.

The minister of state for foreign affairs stressed the need for maintaining peace and tranquility as well as reconciliation in Afghanistan so that the people will be able to use their energies in nation-building activities. He assured the Afghan leader that Pakistan will extend all assistance to the fraternal people of Afghanistan in the repatriation of refugees and in national reconstruction.

450 Afghan Families Cross Border on Way Home

BK3004143692 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] Some 450 Afghan refugee families crossed into Afghan border from Chaman during the last 24 hours on their way back home. An official of the Afghan planning agency in Pishin said another 180 families reached Chaman today for their return journey.

Islamabad Reports Jalalabad Back to Normal

BK0205144092 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 2 May 92

[Text] The situation in the Afghan capital, Kabul, is fast returning to normal. PTV [Pakistan Television] correspondent, Javed Iqbal Piracha, after visiting various parts of the city says a number of shops of daily consumer goods are open and business activities are gaining momentum. Shops around the famous Pol-e Kheshti are open, but shutters of shops of some posh business centers are still down. Vendors are seen selling eatables where people are gathered to buy articles of their choice. Traffic has become frequent and a number of vehicles, including trucks and tongas, are plying on the road.

The situation in the other important city of Jalalabad has already returned to normal. The news that atta [wheat flour] and other commodities have been dispatched to Kabul from Pakistan has resulted in a significant fall in the prices of these commodities.

3 Indian Troops Said Killed in 2 May Border Clash

BK0305164092 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 3 May 92 p 12

[Text] Lahore—Three Indian troops were reported to have been killed Saturday in an exchange of fire between Indian Border Security Force and Pakistan Rangers at Pak-India border near Lahore. Heavy gun-firing is continuing till Wednesday. [as published] One Pakistani ranger and a small border village girl were injured.